■ LIFESTYLE / C1
Offering to a beloved: Inno's spectacular tribute to Richard Tann

■ NEWS/ A2
Plunder raps in P728-M agri scam sought

■ BUSINESS / B1
Jobless rate down to 7.4%; services sector hires more workers

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1
'Brokeback Mountain' tops Golden Globe nominations from foreign press

DFA stands by Singapore report Garci was there

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS yesterday said it was standing by the integrity of the Singapore government's report that former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano stopped in the city-state en route to a third country on July 14 at the height of the

DFA/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, December 16, 2005 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 8 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Only in RP: Priest-less dawn Masses in remote areas

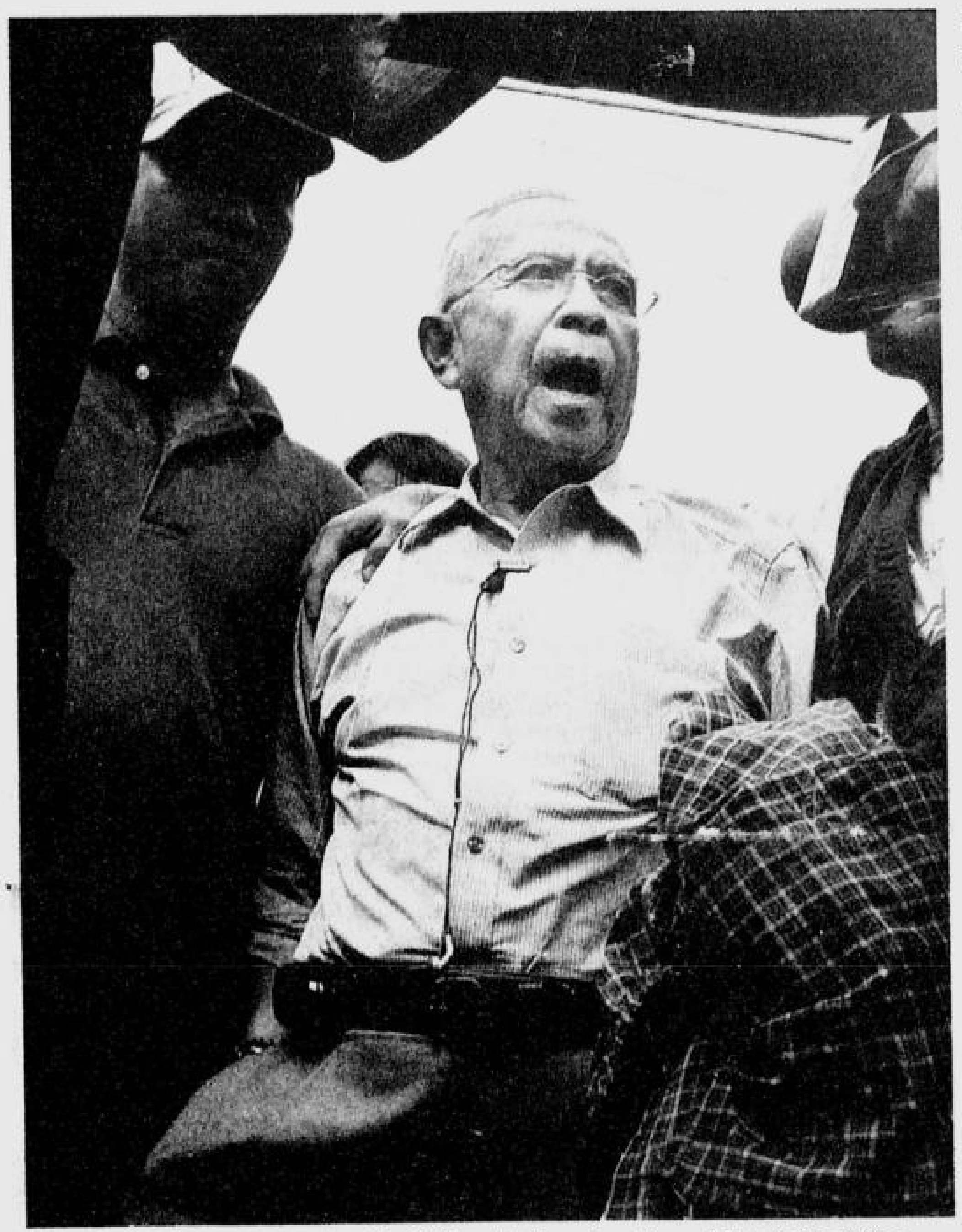
By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GROWING DISPARITY BETWEEN THE number of shepherds and flock can't spoil one of the world's longest and arguably most colorful Christmas celebrations that started today in the country with the traditional

ONLY/ A22

Abat invited but detained

Picked up by plainclothes cops claiming citizen's arrest



HANDLE WITH CARE but authorities didn't quite know how. Cops pick up (retired) Gen. Fortunato Abat. But they're in plain clothes so they called it a citizen's arrest but, whatever, they had no arrest warrant.

AP

By Luige A. del Puerto and Fe Zamora

THE ARREST YESTERDAY OF FORTUNATO ABAT AND other leaders of his self-styled presidency was over in 15 minutes.

Within 35 hours after the former defense secretary proclaimed himself "president" of a "revolutionary transition government," plainclothes policemen came for him and his colleagues at Club Filipino in San Juan, where Abat had set up his "temporary center of government."

Later, Abat, former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, former Ambassador Roy Señeres and lawyer Carlos Serapio were charged with inciting to sedition at the Department of Justice.

At a press briefing, PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the police had made a "citizen's arrest," which he defined for amused reporters as "one form of arrest on the basis of evidence on the ground … Anyone can make a citizen's arrest."

But the citizens who arrested Abat were cops in plain clothes.

Asked if the police had acted on their own rather than on orders from headquarters, he said: "This is a mandate of the police, with or without instruction … If there is violation of law, the NCRPO-CIDG (National Capital Regional Police Office-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) will take action."

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said in an impromptu press briefing: "I would like to emphasize that

ABAT / A21

GMA orders arrest of 'transition president'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

THE GO-SIGNAL FOR AUTHORITIES to take drastic action against retired Gen. Fortunato Abat was given by President Macapagal-Arroyo shortly after her arrival from Kuala Lumpur Wednesday night.

"She told us to just go on with what he (Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez) thinks should be done legally," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in an ambush interview with reporters shortly after Abat's arrest yesterday.

"We have to do something because we cannot let the people feel there is a violation of the law and nothing is being done by the government. Something has to be done by the government," he said.

He quoted Gonzalez as telling Ms Arroyo that the Department of Justice already had a resolution on the previous sedition charge against Abat.

Ermita led a group of top-level officials in welcoming the President home at Villamor Air Base.

The group included Gonzalez, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, Generals Hermogenes Esperon and Jose Reyes, commanding generals of the Army and the Air Force, respectively, and

GMA ORDERS/ A21

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM. And the VIPs, President Arroyo with her state visitors South Korean President and Mrs. Roh Moo-hyun, are delighted to be so welcomed at the PNR Tutuban station, the site of the ceremonial launch of the Northrail-Southrail Linkage Project. Roh is on a three-day state visit here.

LYN RILLON

BSP gov: Peso world's best performing currency for 2005

By Doris C. Dumlao

APPRECIATING BY 5.7 PERCENT AGAINST the dollar since January, the peso is now the world's best performing currency for 2005, Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

Remittances from overseas Filipino workers before the Christmas holidays and strong Asian currency markets lifted the peso yesterday to 53.16, its highest since May 2003, before closing at 53.25:$1.

The local currency opened at 53.35 from Wednesday's finish of 53.45 and further firmed up ahead of the BSP's monthly policy-

BSP GOV/ A4

RP seeks $70M more from SK for PNR rehab

By Clarissa S. Batino and Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILways will ask South Korea's credit institutions to extend an additional $70-million long-term loan to finance the second phase of the rehabilitation of PNR's south line, according to the agency's top official.

The new PNR loan is a follow-up to the $50-million credit line extended by South Korea's lending agencies.

Also yesterday, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and the chair of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, Dr. Dong Kyu-shin, signed a $22.3-million loan agreement for the widening of the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo (GSO) Road and the dredging of the Porac-Gumain River.

The loan signing coincided with the state visit of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

In a speech at the state-owned railway company, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Philippines was grateful for South Korea's contribution to the government's fight against pover-

RP SEEKS/ A21

'Orphaned' moms set up center for healing

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—FROM THE DEPTHS OF her grief after losing a daughter during the holiday season last year, Gina de Venecia is finding the strength to help mothers who are bearing the same unspeakable pain.

Gina and her husband, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., lost their 16-year-old daughter Kristina Casimira or KC in the fire that gutted their palatial residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, on Dec. 16 last year.

KC was the younger of the two children of the De Venecias.

On KC's death anniversary today, Gina will lead groundbreaking rites for the Ina Healing Center in Quezon City, a place for mothers who have lost children to come together for mutual support and solace.

The Ina Healing Center is a project of the

ORPHANED/ A22

JOAN BONDOC

ROSES IN HAND, some 20 masked members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity stage their annual Oblation Run on the UP Diliman campus. (Above) Scene-stealers: Women demanding equal rights get more attention.

2 women in birthday suits upstage 'Oblation runners'

By DJ Yap

TWO YOUNG WOMEN WEARING NOTHING BUT masks and wigs yesterday stole the show from 20 male streakers in their "Ritual Dance of the Brave" during the "Oblation Run" at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

For the first time in its 28-year history, the event featured naked women, who gamely posed for photographers in front of the Oblation Statue at Quezon Hall. They carried posters with the message: "Equal Rights for Women."

2 WOMEN/ A21

ANO KAYA ANG MAPAPALA DYAN?

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Widespread rains over Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/12/16/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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Plunder raps in agri scam sought

By Juiet Labog-Javellana

SEN. RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR. said yesterday he would recommend to the Senate the filing of plunder charges against officials behind the "grand theft" of P728 million from the Department of Agriculture that was allegedly used to fund President Macapagal Arroyo's 2004 election campaign.

"This is a case of plunder and eventually I will ask the Senate to file charges against those responsible," Magsaysay said at a press briefing. "We still have to finish the investigation but it is pointing to that direction.."

Magsaysay, chair of the Senate agriculture committee, made the statement as he released the committee's interim report on its investigation into the allegedly anomalous disbursement of the fund.

"There is reason to believe that the P728 million fertilizer fund (has) been used in the 2004 elections and this must be disputed by the (Department of) Agriculture and other concerned offices," Magsaysay added.

Hampered by EO 464

The senator acknowledged that the probe was hampered by Ms Arroyo's Executive Order 464, which barred administration officials from testifying in congressional hearings without her permission. However, he pointed out that several witnesses testified that the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani was used for the President's election campaign.

He said the fund was released to 105 members of the House, 53 governors and 23 mayors chosen by then Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc Joc" Bolante, a close friend of the President's husband.

Magsaysay noted the testimony of former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin that the fertilizer fund was released in its entirety in just one day – on Feb. 3, 2004 or three months before the election.

He said the P728 million was the first of four fund releases for fertilizer totalling P2.8 billion in 2004, all released before the May 10 election.

"Until disputed by the DA and other relevant offices and officials...(it appears these funds) were all utilized to assure the victory of the administration in the electoral polls of 2004," the Magsaysay report said.

No fertilizer

"More than 18 months after the fund had been released, no delivery of fertilizer has been verified and validated, and no substantial liquidation and auditing have been completed," the report said.

It said the DA could not even submit the list of beneficiaries. But 14 farmers' organizations from around the country told the committee they had not gotten any fertilizer.

Among those who denied ever getting the fertilizer fund supposedly distributed to them were Representatives Teodoro Locsin, Cynthia Villar and Rozzano Rufino Biazon, as well as former Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad.

The report said that the DA was indifferent and did not cooperate when the Commission on Audit reviewed or audited the fund's disbursement.

"Judging form the inaction and lack of interest to prepare physical reports and financial liquidation including the submission of delivery receipts, acceptance certifications and the absence of documents to prove receipt by the farmer-beneficiaries of farm inputs, it may be concluded that there is no real intention to liquidate the fund because it may be that (this) is a giant ghost project involving big-time crooks in the government or may have been padded because of excessive pricing," the report said.

'Key players'

Apart from Bolante, Magsaysay identified former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo, Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales, Assistant Secretaries Jose Felix Montes and Edmund Sana, and presidential assistant Ibarra Poliquit as "key players" liable for plunder.

He described Bolante as the "chief architect" of the fund, as it was he who allegedly drew up the list of politicians, attended to the processing of the requests and the release of the P728 million.

That is why, Magsaysay added, his committee was zeroing in on Bolante, whom the Senate has declared in contempt and ordered arrested for ignoring four subpoenas requiring him to attend the hearings.

Asked if the planned plunder charges would reach as high as the President, Magsaysay said: "I don't want to speculate but Mr. Bolante is very close to the President's family."

Magsaysay called on Ms Arroyo not to obstruct the search for the truth about the fertilizer scam by lifting EO 464 and allowing administration officials to testify before the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday instructed its port personnel to take Bolante into custody as soon as he returns to the country. Bolante, who left the country last Sunday, has been placed on the immigration watchlist of people with pending arrest warrants.

Pinoy savior of US colonel hailed

By Nikko Dizon

ON AN APRIL AFTERNOON, in a Haiti slum, a Filipino soldier gave up his life to save an American colonel who was a fellow member of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

Yesterday, the US government formally recognized the heroism of Staff Sgt. Antonio Batomalaque of the Philippine Army with a posthumous Soldier's Medal Award for making the "ultimate sacrifice" to save another's life.

Batomalaque, a 39-year-old father of three boys, "distinguished himself by making the ultimate sacrifice while protecting an American officer and fellow soldiers during actions in Port-au-Prince, Haiti," the one-page citation read.

Batomalaque's sons, Steven, Jerome and Mark, were with their mother at the simple and brief awarding ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the US Embassy in Manila.

Also in attendance were ranking US Embassy officials led by Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones, US Army officers and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

The Soldier's Medal was presented to the Batomalaque family by Brig. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, director for Logistics, Engineering and Security Assistance of the US Pacific Command.

Also present was US Army Lt. Col. Robert Casias, deputy operations officer of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah).

Casias was the American officer Batomalaque shielded when they came under heavy attack from armed gangs in Cite Soleil in the afternoon of April 14, 2005.

Batomalaque was assigned to provide security to Casias, who was supervising road projects in what was described as a violent neighborhood, a stronghold of armed gangs in the Haitian capital.

The citation contained a detailed account of Batomalaque's heroism, recalling how the Filipino soldier exposed himself twice to enemy fire coming from various directions to allow Casias to move to a covered position.

RP leads 11 hardliners in WTO talks

By Blanche S. Rivera

HONG KONG—THE PHILIPPINES HAS TAKen a lead role in the developing countries' bid to force the rich member countries of the World Trade Organization to cut their subsidies, open their markets and give less developed nations a break from further tariff reductions on their industries.

With 10 other countries, the Philippines signed a strongly worded position paper on the conditions that the group said needed to be met for negotiations to proceed on the so-called non-agriculture market access (Nama).

The signatories, which included Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Namibia, Pakistan and South Africa, said the developed countries have been "reluctant to offer their fair share" in the Nama talks.

The Nama negotiations cover all industries, including fisheries, that fall outside the agreement on agriculture (AOA). Products under Nama represent about 90 percent of global trade.

"The ambition in Nama cannot be viewed in isolation. It has to be proportional and commensurate with the contributions by developed countries in other market access areas. Developing countries cannot be expected to pay for the much-needed reforms in the agriculture sectors of developed countries," the Group of 11 (G11) countries said in a statement.

G-11 position

The European Union, United States and Japan have been pushing for the binding of all but five percent of tariff lines, which would lead to a further tariff reduction on fishery products and allow the entry of cheaper imports.

The position paper of the G11 countries was submitted to John Tsang, chair of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, on Dec. 13. The WTO conference at the Wan Chai Convention Center here runs until Dec. 18.

The Fair Trade Alliance's Wigberto Tañada, who is an adviser to the Philippine negotiating team, said the Philippines wants a 15-year tariff reduction break for Nama products.

He said the government wants the WTO to give credit to the Philippines' unilateral liberalization by giving the country 15 tariff-reduction-free years to allow domestic industries to catch up with foreign competitors.

The Philippines, which is leading the G33 countries, another trade bloc seeking special listing and special safeguard mechanisms for sensitive agricultural products, scored a major victory as some 110 countries expressed support for G33 proposals.

Manuel Teehankee, the Philippines' permanent representative to the WTO, said the Philippines also did not want to move from its position on the General Agreement on Trade and Services, which would adversely affect its $8-billion labor export sector.

He said the developed countries were "not happy" because they cannot impose sanctions under the current "request-offer system" under which a country can decide to open up its services sector to foreign ownership and control through bilateral agreements.

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House okays antiterror bill

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTAtives approved on second reading Wednesday night the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005, taking a major step toward enhancing the Philippines' capability to meet regional and global terrorist threats.

"Approval of the antiterrorism bill reflects our resolve to fight head-on the threats of terrorism," said Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia cited the House committees on justice chaired by Rep. Simeon Datumanong and foreign affairs headed by Rep. Antonio Cuenco for steering House Bill 4839 through hours of often-heated plenary debates during the past weeks.

Before the measure was approved at around 9:45 p.m., members of the majority and the opposition agreed to submit later in writing their proposed individual amendments before the bill is submitted for a third and final reading when Congress reconvenes on Jan. 16, 2006.

As approved, the proposed law provides for a 72-hour detention period within which the state must file formal charges against any suspected terrorists.

In comparison, the antiterror laws of the United States and Singapore provide for the indefinite detention of suspects, while other countries have detention periods of from 30 days to one year.

The measure approved by the House defines terrorism as "…the premeditated, threatened, actual use of violence or force or any other means that deliberately cause harm to persons, or of force and other destructive means against property or the environment, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear or chaos to the general public or segment thereof, or of coercing or intimidating the government to do or refrain from doing an act."

The joint committee report provides for stiff penalties such as imprisonment of not less than six years and one day to 12 years and fines ranging from P50,000 to P10 million and perpetual disqualification from public office in the case of public officials or employees, and deportation after serving their sentence if the offender is an alien.

For their health, lawyers want Erap in Greenhills

THE LAWYERS OF DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada yesterday continued to insist on a change in the custodial arrangement for the disgraced leader, arguing this time that Estrada's sprawling detention center in Tanay, Rizal was a health hazard for the defense team.

Lawyer Jose Flaminiano said the long distance that needed to be traveled to reach Estrada's Tanay rest house, where the disgraced leader is on house arrest on plunder and perjury charges, was taking a toll on the health of his lawyers.

If this situation were to continue indefinitely, Estrada's lawyers might be forced to withdraw from representing him in his legal battle, he said.

"Tanay is too inaccessible and back-breaking for us considering our age," said the 75-year-old Flaminiano.

Estrada was scheduled to arrive at the wake of his elder brother Antonio, 73, at the Santuario De San Jose in San Juan last night. Today, he would visit his mother at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

San Juan Police chief Supt. Rodelio Jocson expects Estrada's visit to be peaceful and orderly "like his previous visits."

"We will deploy enough personnel to provide security for his convoy," Jocson told the INQUIRER.

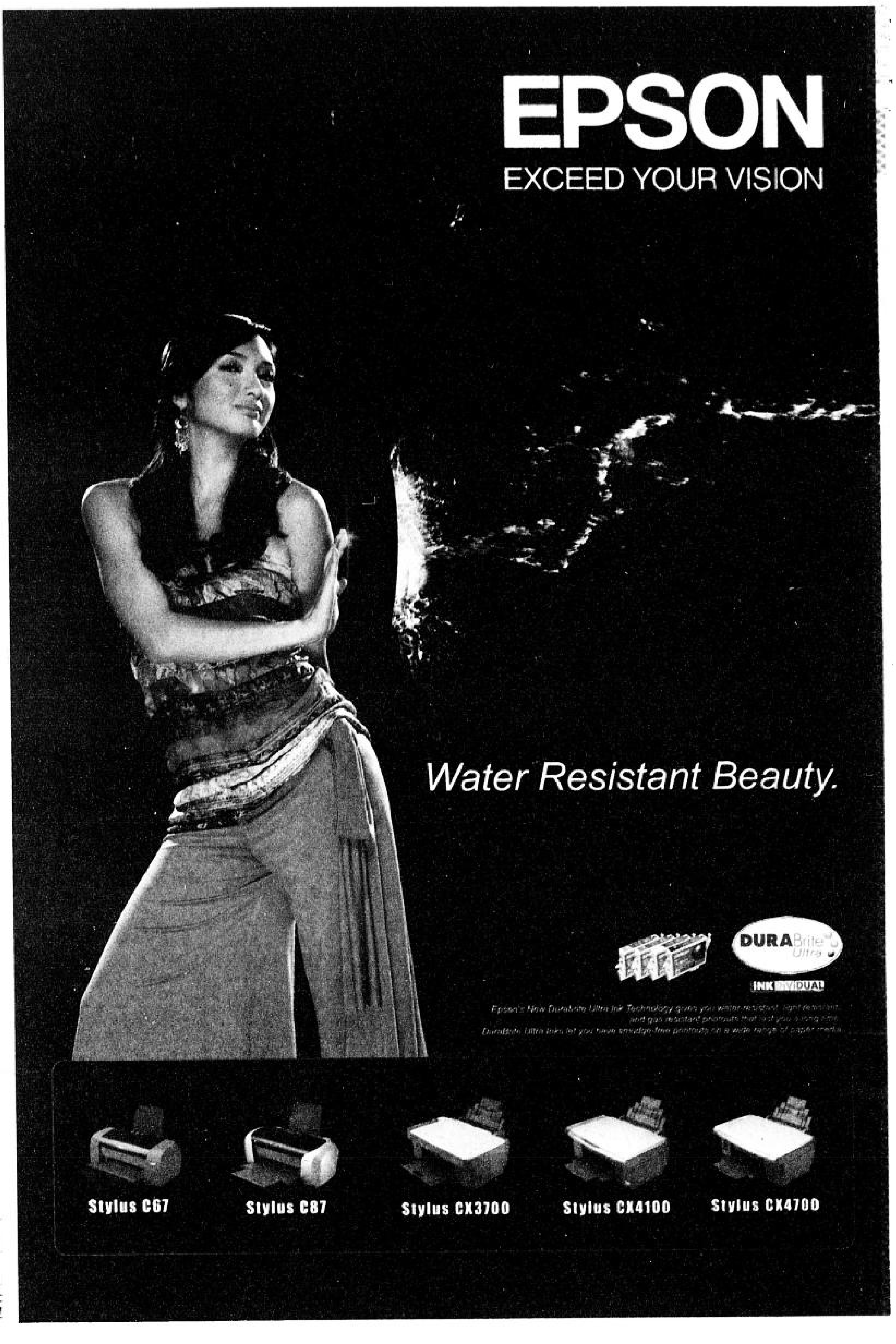
Flaminiano said that Tanay, which is about three hours' drive from Metro Manila, was not only inaccessible for the defense team but also for potential witnesses who may wish to testify in behalf of the ex-president.

Flaminiano explained that this was the main reason why they have asked the Sandiganbayan Special Division to allow a temporary change in Estrada's custodial arrangements.

The defense panel is proposing that Estrada be allowed to reside temporarily in his Greenhills residence for a period of about two months while preparing for his court appearance.

Flaminiano also argued against the Veterans Memorial Medical Center as being a neutral enough ground and that it could cause problems for the hospital management and patients.

"The hospital had been bugged before," said Flaminiano without elaborating. *Nelson F. Flores and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*



Loren is confused, says Noli's lawyer

DEFEATED VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Loren Legarda is very confused.

This is according to Romulo Macalintal, the election lawyer of Vice President Noli de Castro. Macalintal said this was shown by her contradicting positions in connection with the 2004 vice-presidential recount.

Macalintal said he couldn't understand why Legarda was questioning the congressional copies of the election returns. In a press statement on Wednesday, Legarda said the questioned election returns were tampered with inside Congress, which had custody of of ballot boxes and election returns for president and vice president.

"If the camp of Legarda did not insist that the ERs in the custody of Congress be tabulated, the Comelec returns would have been used instead," Macalintal said.

Earlier, Legarda requested the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to open the ballot boxes from Congress because she did not trust the Comelec returns.

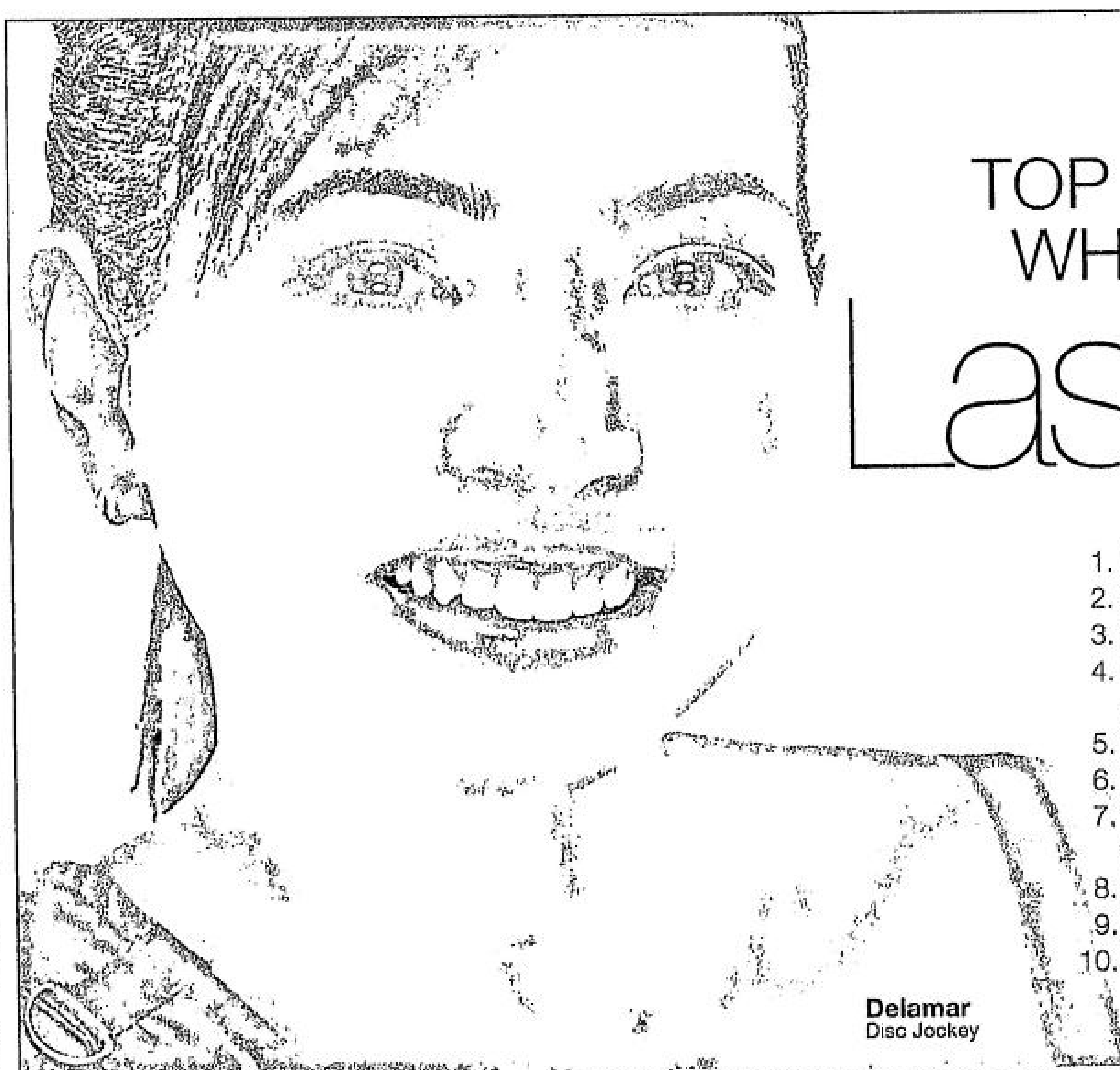
The recount of Congress-copy ERs started early this week where De Castro's lead over Legarda, according to Macalintal, actually widened.

Macalintal pointed out that Legarda's contradicting claims are borne by the fact that she knew that De Castro did not cheat and that he is the real winner.

"Now that she has seen early enough that De Castro actually garnered more votes, she is claiming now that the ERs from Congress were tampered. Does this mean that she has changed her mind and now trusts the election returns from the Comelec?"

Another De Castro lawyer, Armando Marcelo of Andres Marcelo Padernal Guerrero Paras law offices, said that it would be better for Legarda to wait for the final decision of the PET with regard to her protest.

"We believe in the authority and ability of PET to deal and resolve the issues at hand. It would be better if we would let the process take its course, and just allow the Vice President to dutifully perform his tasks and functions." he said.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BSP gov: Peso world's best performing currency for 2005

From page A1

rate setting.

"The peso continues to gain ground on the back of sustained inflows and slack in corporate demand," Tetangco said.

He said the "positive sentiment has resulted in more portfolio inflows while the expected increase in remittances has continued."

Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System, the spot foreign exchange market, reached $437 million.

The peso has also been favorably affected by the strengthening of regional currencies against the dollar, according to Tetangco.

US dollar weakens

The dollar has been weakening against Asian currencies as the greenback came under pressure from a deteriorating US trade balance, expectations that US interest rates will not rise much further and profit-taking.

"This is the start of something new," said a trader in Hong Kong, referring to the gains of Asian currencies.

"The currency moves have been sharp enough to suggest that the bull trend in the dollar is over. Also, it is near the end of the year and investors want to lock in profits on the dollar."

Although the chief reason for the rally was the falling US dollar, analysts attributed some of the strength in Asia to the attractiveness of improving domestic economies and rising yields.

A narrowing interest rate differential between the United States and the Philippines usually exerts pressure on the peso to depreciate against the dollar because it makes peso-denominated assets less attractive.

The interest rate differential has narrowed this year but has not pulled down the local currency, according to Tetangco.

OFW remittances up

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said OFWs sent more remittances to support last-minute holiday spending.

Based on a report the BSP issued yesterday, remittances coursed through the banking system reached $8.8 billion in the first 10 months of the year, 27.1 percent higher than the $6.9 billion posted in the same period last year. For October alone, OFW inflows rose 17 percent to $867 million.

OFW remittances data have a lag time of about two months.

Tetangco said sustained demand for Filipino workers and sustained activities by commercial banks to widen OFW access to banking services were supporting the surge in remittances.

"Global labor demand has been on the rise with the Filipino workers continuing to be consistent providers of quality human resource," he said.

More workers deployed abroad

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that the total number of deployed workers for the first 10 months of 2005 rose to 809,140 from 794,806 in the same period in 2004. By type of worker, land-based workers numbered 602,016 or three-fourths of the total deployed workers.

"Over the medium-term, demand for higher-paid Filipino workers—for employment in construction, oil and gas exploration, tourism-related, health-related, information and communications technology sectors—is expected to rise further in anticipation of the economic upturn in host countries," Tetangco said.

The BSP chief noted that commercial banks continued their vigorous campaigns to provide banking services to the growing number of Filipino workers abroad by increasing the number of remittance centers and by tying up with their foreign financial counterparts.

By country of origin, a significant portion of remittances came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

Record $10 billion

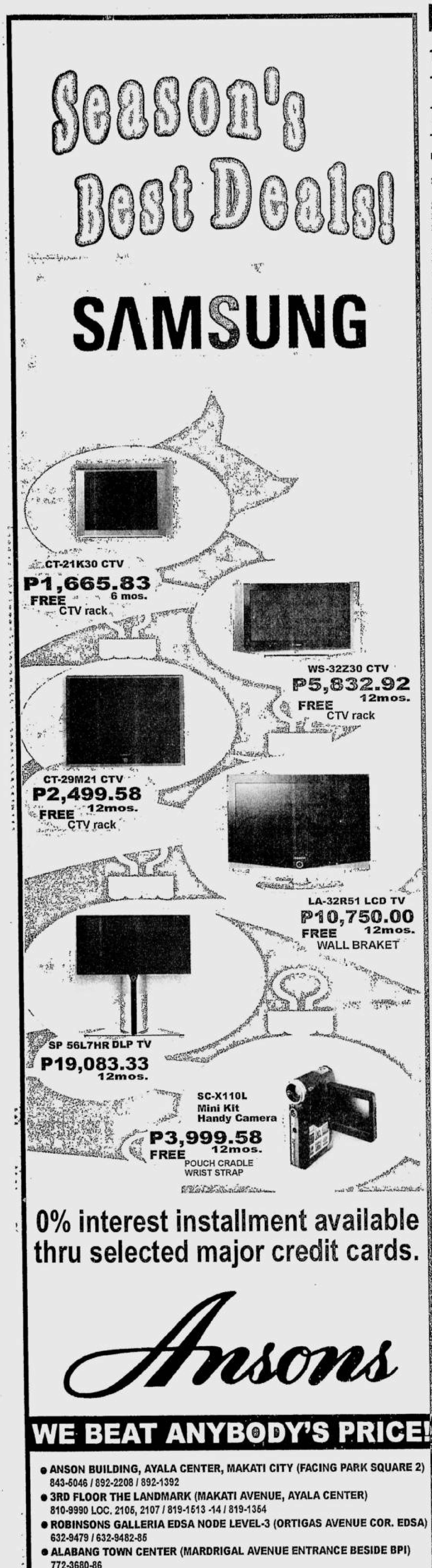
The Philippines forecasts this year's remittances to hit a record of about $10 billion, up about 18 percent from $8.5 billion in 2004, which was equivalent to about 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

But the BSP says remittances could be around 25 to 30 percent higher than what is officially sent through the banks. Many Filipinos still use informal transfers, such as sending money through visiting relatives and friends.

The country is one of the top three recipients of remittances globally.

An estimated 8 million Filipinos work abroad, representing 10 percent of the population.

Three million of them are permanent residents overseas. The 5 million OFWs who are not permanent residents account for 14 percent of the country's labor force. *With a report from Reuters*



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f) 6th Prize - OLYMPUS MJU ZOOM 140 Black	60
g) Consolation Prize - KONICA MINOLTA EZ-Cam GT-1	700

6. A participant can win only once. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize. The Grand Raffle Draw will be on May 13, 2006, 3:30 PM at the Columbia Global Photo Sales Corp. head office at No. 46 St. Rosa St., Brgy. Manresa, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City. The Grand Draw will be supervised by a DTI-NCR representative.
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DFA stands by Singapore report Garci was there

From page A1

"Hello Garci" controversy.

The DFA position was disclosed by its spokesperson, Gilberto Asuque, amid an allegation by Sen. Panfilo Lacson that a police officer had manufactured the passport that Garcillano's lawyer submitted on Wednesday to the House inquiry into the wiretapping scandal, ostensibly to disprove the Singapore report.

The officer, Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Metro Manila, denied Lacson's charge.

The 68-year-old Garcillano came out of hiding on Dec. 4 after five months on the run following disclosures of a wiretapped conversation purportedly between him and President Macapagal-Arroyo. He said he was in the country all the time, reading and writing his memoirs.

On Wednesday, Garcillano's lawyer submitted his two passports—one expired and the other current—to five House committees looking jointly into the wiretapping controversy that led to an unsuccessful attempt in Congress to impeach Ms Arroyo over claims the recordings showed the President stole last year's election.

The current passport did not show that Garcillano had travelled abroad recently, lawmakers said.

Asuque told reporters that the DFA had an "obligation to maintain and stand by the integrity of a note verbale," saying "it is the primary means of communication between two sovereign nations."

Singapore immigration report

The Singapore foreign ministry transmitted the diplomatic note in August to the DFA upon the latter's request for information on Garcillano. The note said that Garcillano had arrived in Singapore on July 14 on board a chartered Learjet from Manila and had left the following day for an undisclosed destination.

"Both countries appreciate the integrity of a note verbale. We have to stand by its integrity because we ourselves issue note verbales," Asuque told the INQUIRER in a separate interview.

Asuque said that in the Garcillano issue, the note verbale was based on the information provided by the Singapore Checkpoints Authority, the city-state's immigration office.

He said that passengers of all private, chartered or commercial flights submit a disembarkation card upon arrival in a country, such as Singapore, and an embarkation card before leaving.

"Both cards are accompanied by the person's passport to match the information on the card and the passport," he explained.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez also had said that Singapore's diplomatic note was "an "impeccable document ... indubitable" and that Garcillano could be held for perjury.

Lacson said in a statement yesterday that Dolina had "manufactured" the Garcillano passport to conform with his claim that he never left the country. Lacson said he was still investigating how Dolino did this.

Lacson said the tampered passport exposed a high-level conspiracy to protect Ms Arroyo at the expense of diplomatic ties with Singapore.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Dolina said that if there was anyone in his organization who could be suspected of siding with Lacson, "it should be me." He said his uncle, retired Gen. Gregorio Dolina, became a regional commander because of Lacson.

"In deference to my uncle, I do not want to say anything against General Lacson," he said. "I really don't want any part in it ... The issue of Garcillano's passport is beyond me."

Dolina said a passport was a "delicate thing" that had distinct security features. "It cannot be manufactured. But ask the DFA how it is made. I don't know much about it," he said.

Passport verification

Domingo Lucenario, acting assistant secretary for consular affairs, said the DFA could examine Garcillano's passport for authenticity.

"We have a way of checking the passport if it is really a document issued by us," Lucenario told the INQUIRER.

"If it's possible for us to get hold of the passport, we could make use of the laboratory facilities of the Central Bank of the Philippines," he said. "I would think it won't take that long to examine it."

According to Lucenario, DFA records showed that a passport was issued to Virgilio Olivar Garcillano Jr. on Feb. 11, 2002, by the DFA regional office in Cagayan de Oro City.

Garcillano's passport number was JJ 243816.

Lucenario said that tampering with a passport, an official document, was punishable under the Philippine Passport Law.

He also said that Garcillano had not been issued a valid official passport, also known as the "red passport" used by government officials.

Ebdane vehicle

Also yesterday, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane said he did provide a vehicle for Garcillano, but claimed that was when the latter was still with the Commission on Elections and he was the PNP chief.

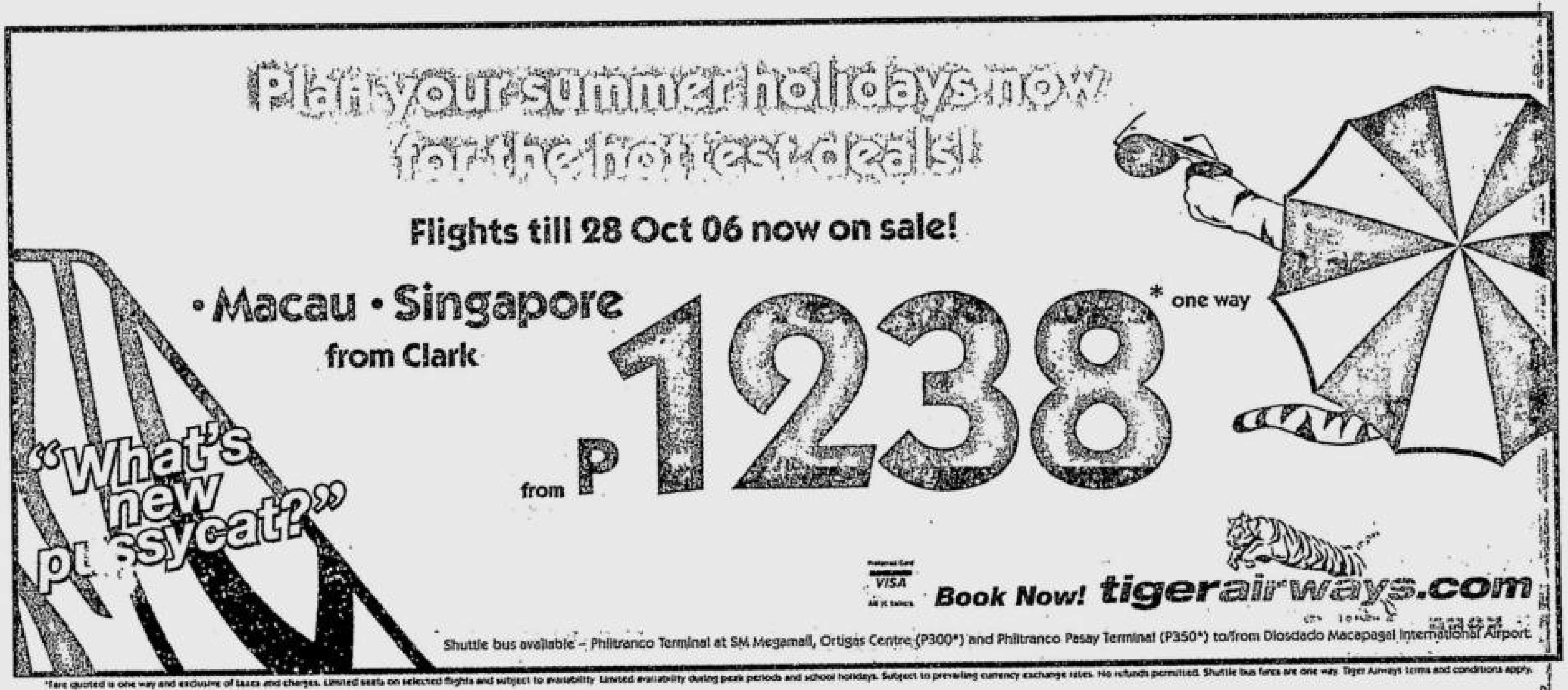
Ebdane said he learned of a threat against Garcillano and informed the latter, who was then in Subic, about it and sent a vehicle to remove him from the place.

He added that, fortunately, Garcillano was transferred to another place before the threat could materialize.

Ebdane declined to answer when asked if he had lent his vehicle to Garcillano when he went into hiding. "I haven't heard about that. Maybe it would be good if we would only answer if we know the specific thing he said," he told reporters in an ambush interview.

Ebdane was linked to Garcillano earlier when former Sen. Francisco Tatad alleged that the DPWH secretary helped the former election commissioner go into hiding. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Luige A. del Puerto and Leila B. Salaverria*

WILL "HELLO GARCI" ever go away? After the tapes, there's the tale of the passport conflicting with a note verbale from the Singapore government. PDI PHOTO



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Prosecutor won't get to interview Subic rape victim yet

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The 22-year-old Filipino woman who has sued six United States soldiers for rape will not be meeting with the state prosecutors investigating the case, her lawyer said on Thursday.

Lawyer Katrina Legarda said Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni had not sent a request to interview her client.

She said an interview would not have been necessary had Jalandoni immediately done an inquest investigation. Then the prosecutors could have met the complainant and her alleged attackers, she said.

The respondents—Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, Corporal Corey Burris and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood, Dominic Duplantis and Albert Lara—were already in the custody of the United Embassy when inquest investigators arrived at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 3, or two days after the supposed incident.

The US Embassy in Manila has taken custody of the six despite a request by the government for them to be turned over to Philippine authorities.

Silver platter

"And the prosecutor expects me to serve her [the complainant] on a silver platter?" Legarda said in a phone interview.

Jalandoni earlier said he wanted to meet the complainant to establish the credibility of her statements.

He opened a Dec. 9 hearing by asking lawyer Minerva Ambrosio, Legarda's co-counsel, where the complainant was.

But Ambrosio said that Jalandoni had not asked for her client's presence.

Jalandoni said this was the first criminal complaint that he handled where he had yet to see the complainant.

The state prosecutor said he saw no need to formalize a request to interview the complainant.

"They should have voluntarily produced the complainant," he said in Filipino.

He said he was expecting to meet the woman before he issued the resolution on Dec. 22.

The woman, a native of Zamboanga City, has yet to speak to reporters since news of the alleged rape broke. Only her mother and brother have agreed to be interviewed, demanding justice through a fair trial.

Jalandoni has also not questioned any of four remaining witnesses, three of whom have attended at least two of the three hearings that have been held on the case.

Lawyers of the two sides are to submit summaries of their positions not later than Dec. 19.

On Tuesday, Burris and Lara showed up at the office of Jalandoni, the first time that any of the accused met with the prosecutor since the complaint was filed.

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RP receives 1st batch of anti-bird flu drugs

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES HAS received an initial batch of 75,000 capsules of a leading anti-influenza drug to boost its preparations against bird flu.

A second delivery of 25,000 capsules of Tamiflu will be made by its Swiss-based manufacturer Roche in March, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

In between, another 10,000 capsules purchased by the government from Roche through the World Health Organization (WHO) will be available by next month, Duque said.

Duque said the deliveries would give the country just enough supply of Tamiflu as authorities brace for the possible arrival in the country of the virus.

He had earlier warned that it was just a matter of time before the disease, which has killed 62 people in Asia, infected local poultry and even people.

"We cannot afford to be complacent. We have to be always on our toes," Duque told the INQUIRER.

Until an actual case is recorded in the country, the secretary said the drugs purchased from Roche would be stored as part of the government stockpile.

When it becomes necessary, the medicines would be distributed to people most in need of protection like chicken cullers and health workers, he said.

By January, too, he said, local drug manufacturer Unilab will start producing Tamiflu. It will take two to three months to make an initial batch of 25,000 capsules. Unilab hopes to produce 500,000 capsules before 2006 is over.

Part of the government strategy against bird flu involves upgrading government hospitals.

Twenty more hospitals have been upgraded, bringing to 41 the number of government facilities capable of handling bird flu cases in humans, said Dr. Luningning Villa, an official of the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center.

Like the initial batch of 21 referral hospitals, the new set of hospitals have the capability to isolate patients and are stacked with antiviral agents and other equipment, Villa said.

The new referral centers are located in areas where people have no easy access to hospitals.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush takes responsibility for decision to invade Iraq

'Much of the intelligence turned out to be wrong'

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush said Wednesday the responsibility for invading Iraq based in part on faulty weapons intelligence rested solely with him, taking on the issue in his most direct and personal terms in the 1,000-plus days since the war's first shots.

"It is true that much of the intelligence turned out to be wrong," Bush said. "As president, I'm responsible for the decision to go into Iraq."

The president's mea culpa was accompanied by a robust defense of the divisive war.

"Saddam was a threat—and the American people and the world is better off because he is no longer in power," Bush declared, as he has before.

Democrats were not moved by Bush's speech, the last of four designed to boost his credibility on the war and the public's backing for it.

"There was no reason for America to go to war when we did, the way we did, and for the false reasons we were given," said Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy.

BUSH

Bush offered few qualms about the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He said foreign intelligence agencies— including several for governments who didn't back his decision to invade—also believed before the war that Saddam Hussein possessed them. And he said his administration has begun making changes to the US intelligence apparatus to head off future errors.

The president also contended the Iraqi president had intended to restart weapons programs.

As in the past, Bush acknowledged no regrets about launching the war despite the problems with his initial justification. He revisited a long list of other previously cited reasons, including Iraqi violations of a no-fly zone in its airspace, Saddam's invasion of Kuwait a decade earlier and Iraq's defiance of United Nations resolutions.

"My decision to remove Saddam Hussein was the right decision," the president said to polite applause from his audience at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a nonpartisan forum for the study of world affairs.

Bush has repeatedly noted that the decision to go to war was his responsibility. And he has acknowledged for more than a year that most of the intelligence behind the claims of Saddam's weapons programs turned out to be faulty. But he has never linked the two so clearly and so personally. *AP*

Japan sets journey to center of the Earth

YOKOHAMA—AN AMBITIOUS Japanese-led project to dig deeper into the Earth's surface than ever before will be a breakthrough in detecting earthquakes including Tokyo's dreaded "Big One," officials said Thursday.

The deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu made a port call Thursday in Yokohama after ending its first training mission at sea since being built in July at a cost of $500 million.

The 57,500-ton Chikyu, which means the Earth in Japanese, is scheduled to embark in September 2007 on a voyage to collect the first samples of the Earth's mantle in human history.

The project, led by Japan and the United States with the participation of China and the European Union, seeks clues on primitive organisms that were the forerunners of life and on the tectonic plates that shake the planet's foundations.

"This is like an Apollo project under the Earth," staff scientist Kan Aoike said, referring to the landmark US lunar missions.

"The idea of the project came out half a century ago but failed halfway while the real Apollo project was carried out successfully," Aoike told AFP as he sorted out samples taken in its first training voyage.

"So this is a second and serious attempt to complete another key exploration for mankind," he said. "We are so excited to witness the mantle for the first time." The Earth is made up of a crust, a mantle, an outer core and an inner core.

The satellite-equipped vessel, which still smells fresh with paint, is equipped with a 121-meter drill tower that can dig 7,000 meters below the seabed, nearly three times as deep as its predecessors.

"All these (samples) give us different ideas for how the climate changed over time, the position of the continents, what kind of land plants were living on the Earth, what's the potential for oil," said Daniel Curewitz, a US scientist working on the project. *AFP*

Canada PM tells US: Don't dictate to me

RICHMOND, BRITISH COLUMBIA—Prime Minister Paul Martin escalated a war of words with the United States on Wednesday, telling Washington not to dictate to him what topics he can raise in the run-up to Canada's Jan. 23 election.

But US Ambassador David Wilkins, who warned Canadian politicians on Tuesday not to bash the United States as part of their campaigning, denied on Wednesday he was trying to control the election debate.

Martin—who has regularly attacked the US stance on a bilateral trade dispute over softwood lumber and also criticized Washington's approach to climate change—took aim at Wilkins' warning for a second consecutive day.

"When it comes to defending Canadian values, when it comes to standing up for Canadian interests, I'm going to call it like I see it," he told reporters in a lumber yard in Richmond, British Columbia. "I am not going to be dictated to as to the subjects I should raise."

Although Martin came to power in December 2003 promising to repair relations with the United States that were damaged by his predecessor's decision not to take part in the Iraq War, he has shown little hesitation in attacking Washington.

The two sides are locked in a protracted dispute over the US decision to slap tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber shipments on the grounds they are unfairly subsidized. Canada says its lumber producers are not subsidized.

Ottawa is fighting the case through various trade panels and complains Washington is not respecting its obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement. *Reuters*

Secret of Mona Lisa's smile revealed at last

PARIS—NOW IT'S OFFICIAL: MONA LISA was 83 percent happy, nine percent disgusted, six percent fearful and two percent angry.

That's the conclusion of a University of Amsterdam computer that applied "emotion-recognition software" to Leonardo da Vinci's work, the British weekly New Scientist reports in next Saturday's issue.

The algorithm, developed in conjunction with the University of Illinois, tries to assess the human mood by examining key features such as the curvature of the lips and crinkles around the eyes, then makes a score with respect to six basic emotions. *AFP*

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Iraqis vote in landmark election

BAGHDAD—IRAQIS voted Thursday in a landmark poll to choose a four-year government that many hope will restore security to a nation wracked by violence and sectarian feuding since the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Despite blanket security, one person was killed and several wounded in sporadic attacks across the country, including a huge blast minutes after polling opened near Baghdad's heavily-protected Green Zone that houses the Iraqi government and the US and British embassies.

"The most important thing is for Iraqis to express themselves with ballots, not blasts," said Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, who voted inside the Green Zone.

The strict security measures brought Iraq to a halt as about 15.5 million Iraqis were called to vote for a 275-member parliament, with leading candidates pledging to restore stability and pave the way for an exit of foreign troops.

"It's a national celebration for all Iraqis," said President Jalal Talabani, the country's first Kurdish head of state, who was the first to cast his ballot in the northern city of Sulaimaniyah.

In Baghdad, 60-year-old Mohammed Ahmed al-Bayati, cast his ballot and then cried out: "It's a day of victory, a day of independence and freedom!"

Iraqis poured into the streets to walk to polling stations because vehicles were banned to curb suicide attacks, turning Baghdad into a virtual ghost town.

In the restive Sunni majority city of Fallujah and in Baghdad, disabled and blind voters in wheelchairs and on crutches were helped by their neighbors to the urns.

The vote, the third this year, marks a new beginning for Iraq following the US-led invasion in March 2003 to oust Saddam, two transitional governments and the adoption of a constitution in October. *AFP*

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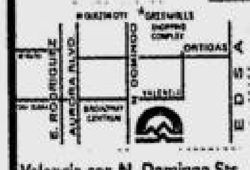

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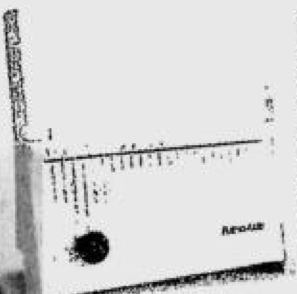

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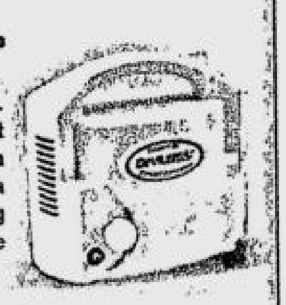

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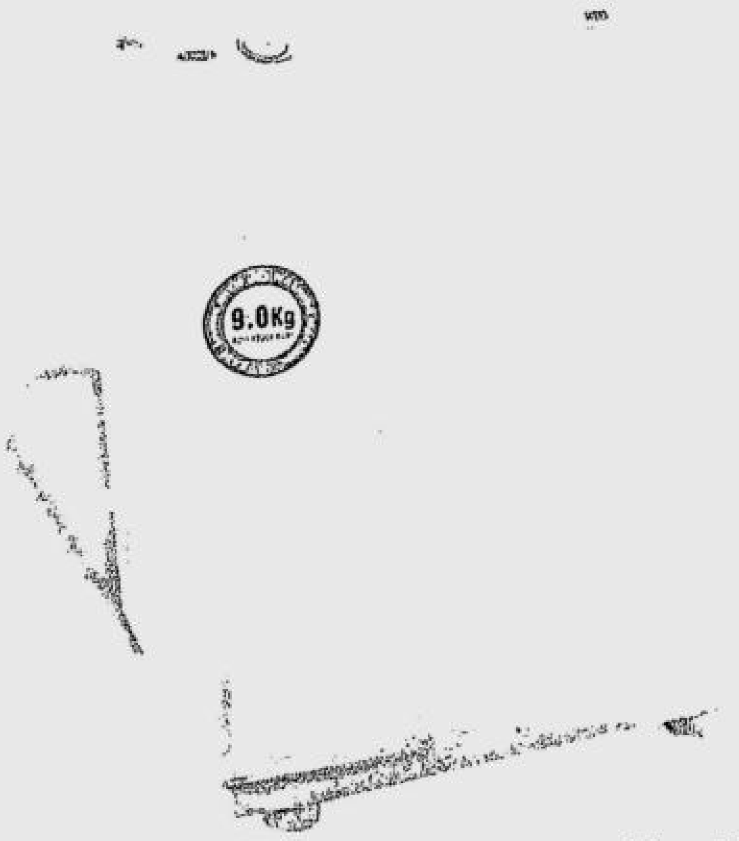

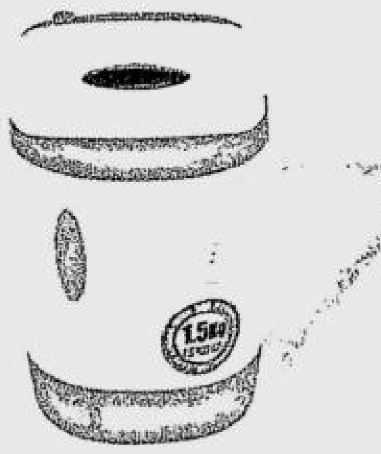

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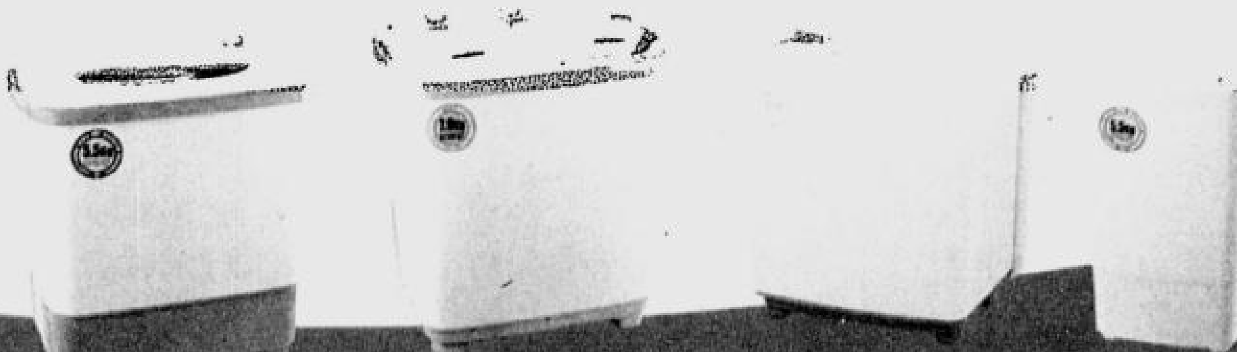

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EU lawmakers to launch CIA prisons probe

STRASBOURG—Leaders of the European Parliament have agreed to launch an investigation into the possible existence of US intelligence agency prisons in Europe, officials said.

Wednesday's move came after a probe by the Council of Europe, a separate 46-member rights body, concluded that allegations of secret CIA prisons were credible and that the US seemed to have illegally abducted and detained individuals.

The European Parliament will decide in mid-January on the makeup of the investigating commission and the length of its mandate, said an official at the European Union's legislature, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It's important in this European Parliament that we get to the root of the matter," said Hannes Swoboda, vice president of the Socialist group in the assembly.

"We must investigate without prejudice but without being blind to the possibilities. We want to know the truth, nothing more than the truth. If we do this then we are genuinely battling against terrorism but also against torture," he said. EU lawmakers will vote on setting up the probe Thursday.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday dismissed as "completely absurd" calls to probe all US government plane movements through Britain in the wake of the CIA "extraordinary rendition" row.

Blair said there were a "whole series of reasons" why Washington requested stops at British airports and restated his government's lack of knowledge about so-called "extraordinary rendition" flights and its opposition to torture.

However, the Council of Europe probe concluded that "the information gathered to date reinforced the credibility of the allegations concerning the transport and temporary detention of detainees—outside all judicial procedure—in European countries." It said that some European governments may have colluded.

Dick Marty, the Swiss parliamentarian leading the inquiry, said the fact that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had failed to categorically deny that detainees were transported or held in Europe substantiated the claims.

The council's findings will intensify pressure on the United States to explain its policy on terror suspects. *AFP*

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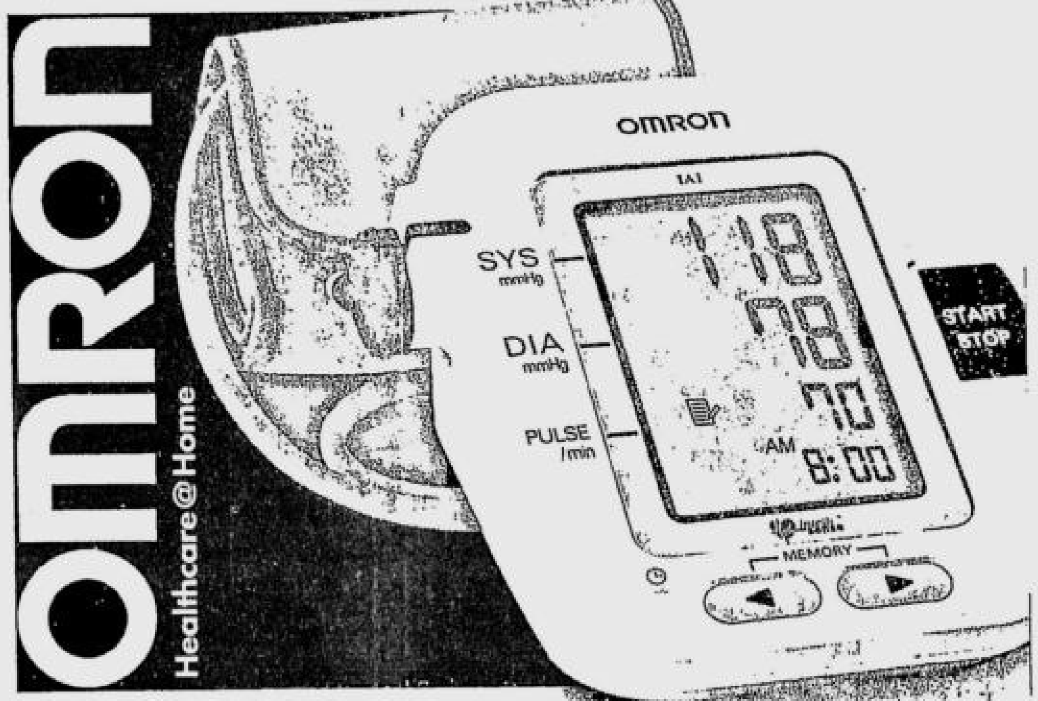

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China, Cuba are top jailers of journalists

NEW YORK—CHINA, CUBA, ERITREA, AND Ethiopia are the world's leading jailers of journalists in 2005, together accounting for two-thirds of the 125 editors, writers and photojournalists imprisoned around the world, according to a new analysis by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

For the seventh consecutive year, China was the world's leading jailer of journalists, with 32 imprisoned. Fifteen, or nearly half, of the cases in China involve Internet journalists; more than three-quarters of the cases were brought under vague "antistate" laws.

Cuba ranked second, with 24 reporters, writers, and editors behind bars, most of them jailed in the country's massive March 2003 crackdown on dissidents and the independent press. Eritrea was the leader among African countries, with 15 journalists in prison, many of them held incommunicado in secret jails for reasons the government would not fully explain, according to CPJ research.

Neighboring Ethiopia imprisoned 13 journalists, all of whom were swept up by authorities seeking to quell dissent amid civil unrest in November. Ethiopian police blocked most private newspapers from publishing; raided newspaper offices, confiscating computers, documents and other materials; and issued a "wanted list" of editors, writers, and dissidents.

The United States, which is holding journalists in detention centers in Iraq and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, rose to sixth among countries jailing journalists, just behind Uzbekistan and tied with Burma, according to CPJ.

Uzbekistan ranked fifth among countries, with six journalists in prison. Burma and the United States followed, with five apiece. US detention centers in Iraq were holding four journalists, while the US Naval Base at Guantánamo held one.

"Antistate" allegations, including subversion, divulging state secrets, and acting against the interests of the state, were the most common charges used to imprison journalists worldwide. Seventy-eight journalists were jailed under such charges, many by the Chinese and Cuban governments.

A sudden and far-reaching crackdown on the Ethiopian press this fall fueled an increase in the number of journalists jailed worldwide, according to CPJ's census of those held on Dec. 1, 2005. The global tally is three more than the 122 imprisoned journalists CPJ found in its 2004 census. Twenty-four countries imprisoned journalists in 2005, reflecting an increase from the 20 nations included in the 2004 census.

"We're disturbed to see the number of jailed journalists rise, and we're particularly troubled that the list of the worst abusers now includes Ethiopia and the United States," CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper said. "Journalists covering conflict, unrest, corruption, and human rights abuses face a growing risk of incarceration in many countries, where governments seek to disguise their repressive acts as legitimate legal processes."

CPJ's full list of imprisoned journalists is available at: http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/pages05/imprison_05.html.

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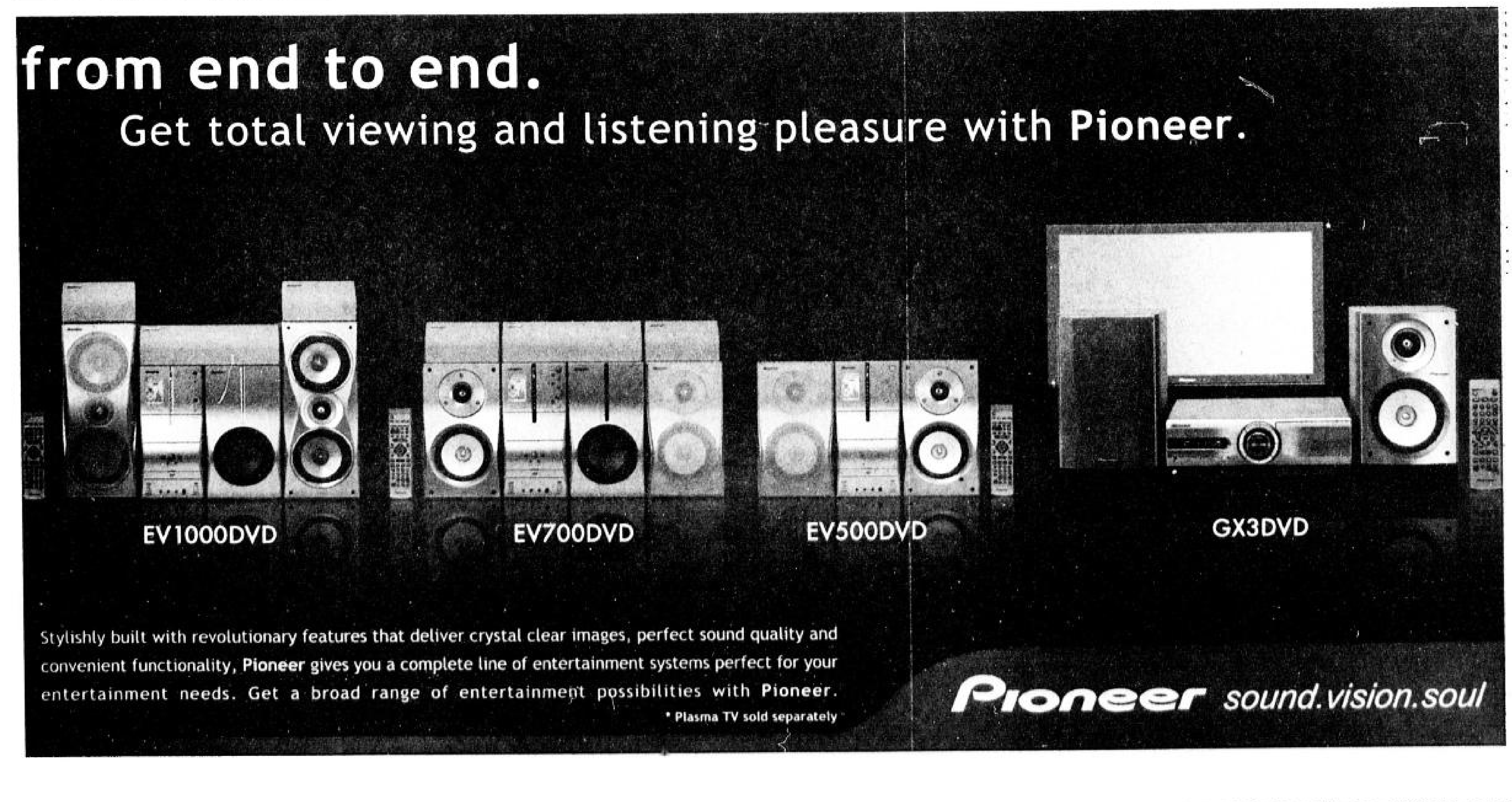

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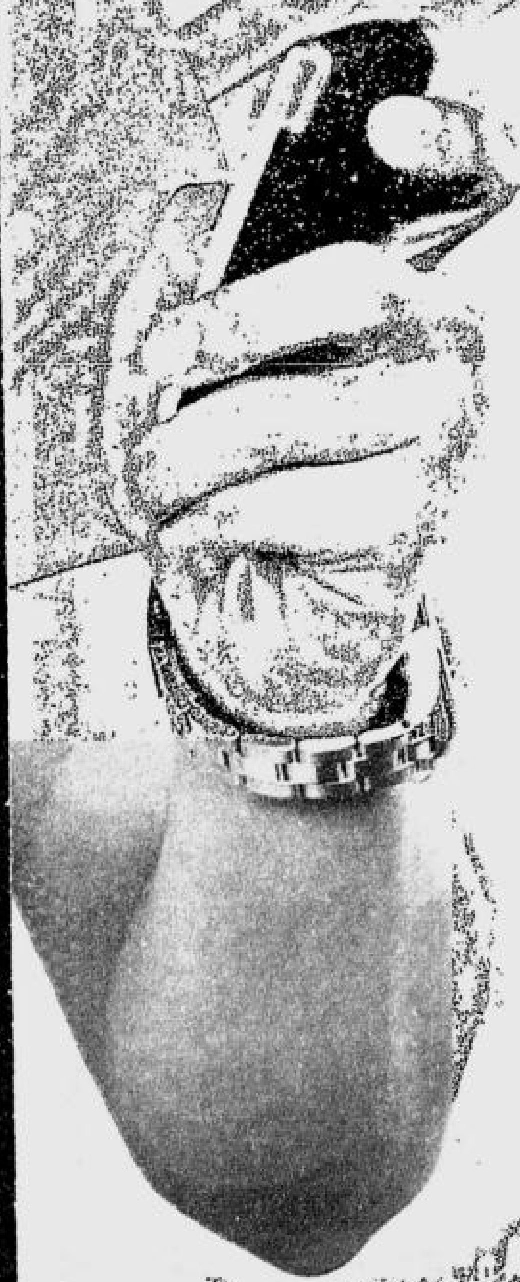

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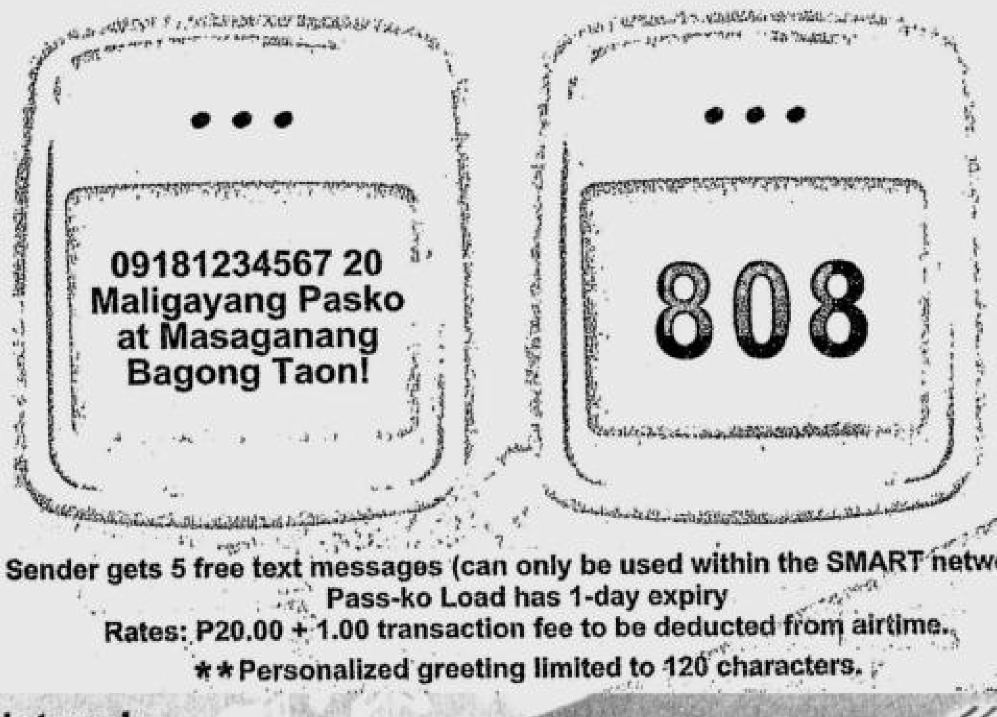

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Agrarian Christianity

EDITORIAL

FILIPINOS STARTED EARLY THIS MORNING THE traditional "Simbang Gabi" that has so become their habit that they have forgotten the ritual's origins and significance. Particularly for Filipinos in the urban centers, the practice is routine, a beautiful custom rich with color and spiritual meaning but devoid of history. Their short memory is apparent in the decision of several parishes in Metro Manila, for instance, to reschedule the traditional Christmas Masses from its original dawn setting to late evening, since it is quite difficult for city denizens to wake up early in the morning to fulfill the novenary.

What urban Filipinos may not know is that Simbang Gabi is really for farmers and the agricultural sector, a recognition of the agrarian moorings of much of Philippine culture and society.

Some have lamented the new practice as a debasement of tradition, an accommodation to the materialism of the era. But actually, the rescheduling is merely a restoration of the old practice of holding Masses at midnight in the run-up to Christmas. That's why in Europe, where the practice originated, the Mass is known as the "Midnight Mass."

The revisionism started with the Spanish friars whose work of evangelization in the islands was so surefooted and creative, they made the Philippines the only Christian nation in Asia, at least until East Timor, which was also successfully Christianized by their Latin brothers, the Portuguese, became an independent nation-state.

Noting the Filipinos' love of the liturgy and extended rituals like novenas, the Spanish friars promoted the Christmas Masses. But they introduced an innovation: They held the Mass at dawn in order to fit it into the agricultural rhythm of the farmers, who usually woke up early to work the fields and retired early to prepare for work the next day. That's why the Mass became known as "Misa de Gallo" (Mass of the Rooster).

The innovation shows why the Augustinians, Franciscans, Dominicans and Recollects were such effective evangelizers: they did not impose the Gospel, they applied and crafted it to suit the lifestyle of the ordinary folk. They were doing contextual theology even before 20th century theologians thought of coming up with the modern concept.

So before the farmers went to work and tilled the fields, they went to dawn Masses to pray for the birth of Christ and, by extension, for a generous yield. Thus, the birth of Christ and the bounty of the land complemented one another. The Christian message found fruition in the farmers' labors and struggles.

The agrarian basis of Simbang Gabi is obvious in the culinary treats that have become part and parcel of the ritual: *bibingka* (pancake made from finely ground sticky rice garnished with carabao milk cheese and grated coconut fillings), *puto-bumbong* (sticky rice cake steamed in bamboo shoots), and *salabat* (strong ginger tea).

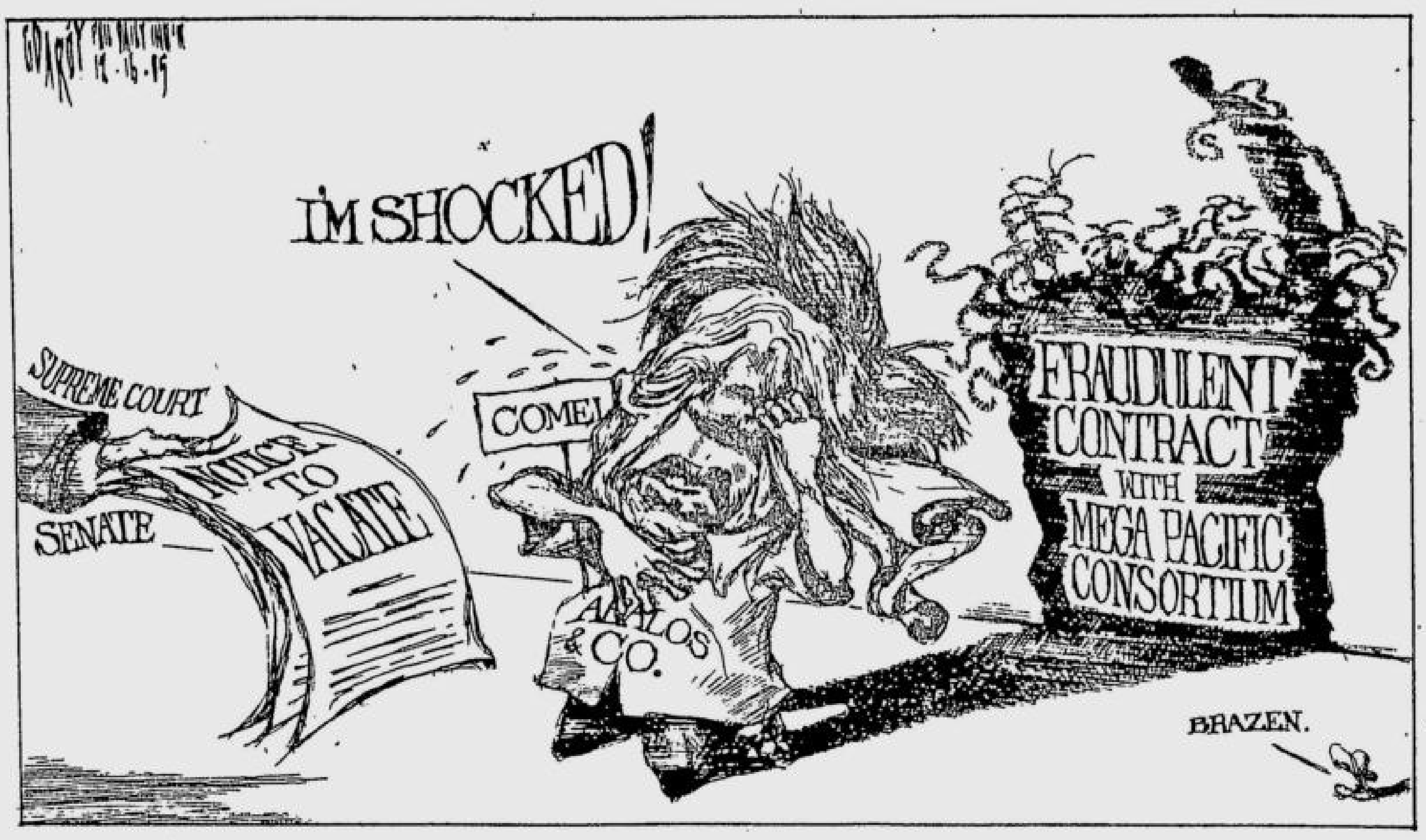
There's nothing essentially wrong with rescheduling the dawn Masses to midnight or even earlier to suit the working routine and biological clock of urban people. After all, the Mass is for the people, not the people for the Mass. But urban Filipinos, many of whom are refugees themselves from rural poverty, tend to forget the struggles and pains of the agricultural sector. Indeed, economists and experts say that agriculture is severely penalized in the Philippines in the rush to industrialization, as shown by the untrammeled commercial logging in Eastern Luzon that caused the disastrous flooding and landslides last year.

Despite the agricultural make-up of the Philippines, agriculture is poorly treated in public policy and program. Commercial banks hardly provide agricultural credit, leaving farmers to the tender mercies of usurers and loan sharks. Seed and fertilizer prices are high because of monopolies.

Because of the lack of farm-to-market roads, farmers are compelled to rely on middlemen who pay them depressed prices and sell their produce at handsome prices. If there are roads for the transport of goods, the farmer has to pay "toll fees" at police and military checkpoints.

The neglect of farmers explains the lingering feudal question in the Philippines that has fueled the battle over land reform, the Hacienda Luisita labor dispute and rural underdevelopment.

In more ways than one, the Misa de Gallo prefigures the agrarian crisis that continues to rage in the country.



Transition gov't: What if Loren wins poll protest?

(Continued from last Wednesday)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE OPPOSITION HAS MADE PLANS FOR A transition government if and when President Macapagal-Arroyo is ousted. The first part was printed here last Dec. 14. The first four steps were: (1) to choose a popular leader to head a (2) nine-member council representing the major sectors of society, to be assisted by (3) a Cabinet. The council will formulate the policies and the Cabinet will implement them. The council members and the popular leader will be banned for life from seeking public office. (4) Congress will be abolished and the judiciary, the Comelec and other constitutional bodies revamped. (Wow! The transition government would be a dictatorship.)

"(5) Immediately upon the assumption of the transition government, a Constitutional Commission will be formed. This will be composed of the best minds from the different sectors and regions of the country. The leader shall appoint delegates only from the nominees submitted by the sector to represent them. The delegates to the Constitutional Commission will not be eligible to run in the first local and national elections to be held under the new constitution.

"(The present Constituent Commission is just a perpetuation of the present inept and corrupt system since it represents the same men and women of vested interest groups in the present Congress. And an elective Constitutional Convention, aside from being expensive, will just result in the same discredited politicians and/or their family members being elected to the Convention.)

"(6) The transition government will hold office for only a limited time—anywhere from one year to a year-and-a-half, when the basic system changes have been put in place.

"(7) Immediately after the ratification of the new constitution, elections will be held at the local and national levels, gradually restoring normalcy to the democratic processes of government."

There you have it. Is it good or bad? Will it work or not? You be the judge.

But for it to work, the incumbent President and Vice President will first have to go.

* * *

What if opposition vice-presidential candidate Loren Legarda won her election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro? She would succeed to the presidency. Would she give way to a "popular leader" to head the nine-member council, or junta, that would run the transition government? Or would she be that "popular leader"? (I don't think the planners meant it to be her.)

But granting she would be chosen to be that leader, she would be banned for life from seeking any public office. Not only would she lose the presidency, she won't even be able to run for senator or any other elective office nor be appointed to any government position. What a raw deal that would be.

After only the first day of recounting the votes cast for the vice-presidential candidates, it seems like Loren was really cheated. It is still a long way before the recount will be completed, but the first 50 ballot boxes opened already showed that election returns in Lanao del Sur had been tampered.

"I feel vindicated," said Loren. "The truth has come out that I was cheated, that the Filipino people are being deprived of their true vice president."

Of course, the lawyer of Vice President Noli de Castro denied this. "Don't jump to conclusions," Romulo Makalintal said. The counting has barely begun.

But Loren said that "the fraud was finally shown in all the election returns (examined) so far." She claimed there are discrepancies between copies of the election returns that were canvassed by Congress and her own copies of the same returns from the Commission on Elections.

She said the returns in her possession, "which are Comelec-certified true copies," did not tally with "those which are inside the ballot boxes" from Congress. "These are supposed to be duplicates with the same serial numbers. The results were altered. ER copies that do not match despite having the same serial numbers are, of course, tell-tale signs of cheating."

Loren cited as proof of fraud the copies of the ERs from Barangay Bubongcadap in Balindong, Lanao del Sur, which had her getting 96 votes and De Castro 75 in the Comelec copy, only to have De Castro "miraculously" take 180 votes against her 35 in the ER that came from Congress. (Majority members of Congress canvassing the votes for president and vice president refused to open the election returns in spite of discrepancies exposed by opposition members. Their strong objections were merely "Noted" and the canvassing continued.)

Loren also provided the following examples, also from Balindong:

- Barangay Abaga, Comelec copy of ER: Legarda 59, De Castro 57; Congress' copy: Legarda 10, De Castro 90.
- Barangay Barit, Comelec copy: Legarda 100, De Castro 49; Congress' copy: Legarda 15, De Castro 140.
- Barangay Bantogawato, Comelec copy: Legarda 71, De Castro 38; Congress' copy: Legarda 30, De Castro 75.

The opening of the ballot boxes from Mandaue, Cebu, also bolstered her election protest, Loren said. Many of them contained ballots with the same handwritings.

She said the "falsity" of the ERs from the ballot boxes recovered from the House of Representatives would show that the votes canvassed by Congress were dubious since the fraud from the ERs would have certainly been copied in the statement of votes (SOVs) and certificates of canvass (COCs).

Question: Without jumping to the conclusion that De Castro cheated, but only assuming that he did, is it not very probable that his running mate also cheated her rival?

Right and wrong reasons to junk JBC interviews

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

TWELVE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES OBJECTED to the Judicial and Bar Council's (JBC) plan to interview the candidates to be the next chief justice, and the JBC obliged. Activist groups have protested, and insist that the Court is accountable to the people.

Scrap the interview, fine, but not for the reasons given by the justices, and not with the justices pulling rank and the JBC caving in, carving out exceptions to reforms akin to the transparency and accountability program of the Davide Watch. In doing so, the JBC has just handed its critics some potent ammunition.

I have opposed the abolition of the JBC. If the problem were the politicization of the courts, returning to the pre-martial law system would simply make it worse. That old system—where the president nominated and Congress confirmed—would merely multiply the political patrons needed by judicial nominees, and replace Palace politics with parliamentary horse-trading.

I followed the confirmation hearings of US Chief Justice John Roberts, and saw him grilled on his judicial approach and philosophy. "I have no platform," he said in a brief speech without notes. "Judges are not politicians who can promise to do certain things in exchange for votes." Rather, he said, "judges are like umpires. Umpires don't make the rules; they apply them." Prodded to reveal his hand on issues like abortion and civil rights, he deftly ducked and weaved, saying that justices must have "the humility to recognize that they operate within a system of precedent."

I doubt if the questioning will be as nuanced and searching in the Philippines, whether it is the JBC or Congress which will ask the questions.

The JBC has granted the request of 12 justices to cancel the public interviews, with only Sen. Kiko Pangilinan standing firm for public accountability. To their credit, the JBC members said that there were "vigorous and serious objections to the substantive grounds" relied upon by the justices, and that they were junking the interviews solely on the ground that, having pared down the list to three, the JBC has discharged its constitutional task and the interviews would serve no real purpose.

Correct. But they should have thought about that before the list was down to three and they had obsolesced themselves. Of course, the JBC members can very well say that they didn't get to do any winnowing out: the two other nominees, both Supreme Court justices, too, had jumped the gun on them and taken their names out of contention. But that merely strengthens the public suspicion, paranoid or not, of an old-boy network adept at legal sleight of hand.

The 12 justices asked: Why should members of a superior body (the Court) submit themselves to be interviewed by a subordinate body (the JBC)? The Constitution fixes the institutional pecking order and merely says that the JBC is "under the supervision of the Supreme Court" (and that the Court may assign it other duties and fix their emoluments). Nowhere does it say that the individual justices themselves stand above the JBC's constitutional task to prepare the list of nominees "for every vacancy."

The justices also asked: What's the point of an interview when all the nominees are sitting justices? After all, the JBC itself has vetted their competence when they were first up for appointment. Again, the JBC has the constitutional power to ask more questions of aspiring chiefs than of aspiring associate justices. Moreover, its own rules say that a candidate will be interviewed again if he was last nominated and interviewed more than a year past.

Finally, I have heard arguments about tradition, that apparently no sitting justice has ever been interviewed by the JBC. Pray tell, how long has the JBC been around? Eighteen years, at the most. And how many chief justices has it nominated? Three, by my count. Certainly tradition takes longer and much more sustained practice.

By analogy in international law, it is not enough that a custom be practiced; it must be practiced out of a sense of legal obligation, with such *opinio juris* that the Finnish legal philosopher Martti Koskenniemi wondered about "the normative force of habit." Let us not make a virtue out of routine. We debase tradition when eager-beaver crusaders switch it on-and-off like a spigot to suit their candidate of the moment.

And what happens when a so-called tradition collides with express provisions of the rules, like the JBC rule requiring public interviews of candidates? This rule is part of the reforms for transparency and accountability instituted by the JBC in 2002. To exempt the justices from these reforms is an ironic way to mark the close of the Davide Watch.

Which brings us to the role of personal leadership in the task of judicial reform. The justices' letter to the JBC spoke of collective leadership vested in the entire Court. They must look at judicial reforms all over the world. The one lesson we learn is the importance of leaders, and for which Hilario G. Davide Jr. of the Philippines deserves credit.

No public interview can measure character and judgment. Given the populist mood of the times, either the candidates will play it safe with motherhood statements sprinkled with legalese, or they will play to the gallery and appease the unknowing heathens.

The 12 justices were so correct when they said: Go read the nominees' judgments and writings instead. They should have anchored their letter on this ground alone. Not that the interviews are moot, but that they are academic. Then the oracles of the law can be windows to the soul.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Coup slapstick

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MY FIRST IMPULSE UPON LEARNING OF RE-tired Gen. Fortunato Abat's declaration that he had installed himself as "president" of a "revolutionary transition government" was to dismiss it either as a cyclical recurrence of coup plots that have plagued the country since 1986 or as yet another bizarre manifestation of messianic adventurism.

If it were the first, then Abat's pronouncement should be taken seriously; if the second, he and his cohorts should be promptly bundled off to a psychiatric ward for examination.

The proclamation at Club Filipino has to be examined in the context of the history of failed coups during the past two decades. This perspective helps us understand the prospects of the success of the project of deposing President Macapagal-Arroyo and getting public support and the military behind it.

The timing is important. The proclamation was made when public dissatisfaction with the President had hit an all-time low. Regime enemies have always watched the satisfaction ratings as the cue to stage moves to oust the President. The Oakwood mutiny, the disclosure last June of the tapes purporting to show alleged rigging of the election, and the defection of 10 key Cabinet members last July occurred during periods when the President's popularity ratings fell. The ratings were interpreted as signs of widespread discontent that could trigger mass movements and the withdrawal of military and police support from the regime.

Abat's calculation appears to be no different from those that failed to ignite mass unrest. His chances of success do not seem to be any more promising. Abat has no military force to back him. The failed plots suffered from shoddy planning and unrealistic expectations.

Abat is hoping that if he can hold on to his "revolutionary government" in Club Filipino, dissident elements in the military will flock to his standard. He has appointed a 15-member revolutionary council, and has named a few key members of his "junta," whose composition is recruited from the cabal of defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. and former President Joseph Estrada.

Lacking military force, Abat has expressed hopes that his move would put "psychological pressure" on Ms Arroyo to resign. This is a forlorn hope as well as an unorthodox way of seizing power. It is an aberration divorced from reality.

Abat timed his coup when the President was attending the Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur. He was hoping that by the time she returned to Manila, she would no longer have a government because he had already established his junta. This is pure fantasy.

The President has a problem over what to do with an Abat bunkered in a clubhouse. She will be tempted to send special forces to bodily eject him and his gang from the club. This course of action would be an application of force that is out of proportion to the threat posed by Abat. Any harm done to him makes him a martyr. That's what probably Abat is trying to do—martyr-baiting.

The dilemma, however, is that the administration can't allow this dissidence to fester. Abat is like a fishbone stuck in the government's throat. The government has been challenged to reassert its authority. It has to remove Abat and his gang without violence. The longer he holds out, the more the government will be shamed.

There is a ridiculous aspect to this drama at Club Filipino. Abat has staged a coup from the platform of a clubhouse. Conventionally coups are not staged from these platforms but from tanks and military camps. In 1987, former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, vice president of deposed President Marcos, seized the Manila Hotel and installed his provisional government with the aid of Marcos loyalist troops. The seizure was followed by a siege, which ended after Tolentino's forces abandoned the hotel.

The loser in the seizure was not the Aquino government. The Manila Hotel was the loser. The reason for the occupation of the hotel was not its strategic importance. The first thing that the rebel soldiers did upon occupation was to loot the pantry and feast on the food. After the rebel government had fled, the hotel looked like it had been pillaged by a barbarian invasion.

The logic behind the launching of Abat's revolutionary transition junta in a clubhouse appears to have been driven by the consideration that Filipinos do not seem to take their coups or their revolutions (except the one in 1896) seriously. Most of the coups since 1986 were non-violent, except the one of December 1989, which nearly toppled the Aquino government. The "God Save the Queen" coup and the siege of GMA-7 was more of a shadow play and test of strength between loyalist and rebel troops. Soldiers avoided firing at one another.

When a retired general, who was in the thick of the coups of the 1980s, launches his coup in a clubhouse, he is not serious and does not want to shed blood. That's why he cannot be taken seriously.

The takeover of Club Filipino looks more like a slapstick with lots of ham acting by aging ex-generals suffering from messianic complex and from too much reading of literature on "national salvation." But the Arroyo government cannot dismiss the episode as an aberration of self-important would-be saviors of the Filipino people. Rather it is an expression of festering grievances against the government over election cheating issues and economic distress being echoed in the call for leadership change. These are very dangerous undercurrents that are waiting to be tapped by an alternative leadership more credible than Abat.

Motherhood and laws

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS INVITED TO BE A REACTOR AT THE launching Wednesday of the East and Southeast Asian edition of the book "Women of the World: Laws and Policies Affecting their Reproductive Lives."

The book, published by the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), focuses on women in five countries: China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines. The section on the Philippines was prepared mainly by the Institute for Social Studies and Action (ISSA). The book series, which already covers five other regions in the world, is "intended to give advocates and policymakers a more complete view of the laws and policies governing women's lives."

At the launch, Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said all their work is based on their belief that "reproductive rights are fundamental rights governments are obligated to promote and protect." Especially governments, like the Philippines, that have signed and ratified international conventions like the ICPD and Beijing Women's Conference Programs of Action, the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw).

The book, then, is meant to provide advocates and policymakers a handy and ready reference to measure the compliance or non-compliance of their governments with both international and local commitments, as well as to craft future legislation and policy that would better respond to the realities of women's lives.

I made only a rough outline for my talk, so this presentation will not be an accurate record, but rather a fleshing-out and embellishment of the basic ideas.

* * *

TO ILLUSTRATE the formidable challenges that advocates of sexual and reproductive health and rights face in this country, allow me to use a story that appeared in the left-hand "ear" of the INQUIRER last Sunday. The story bore the headline: "Filipina makes ultimate sacrifice for unborn son."

It tells the story of "devout Catholic" Bernadette Mimura, known to friends and family as "Milai," a Filipina based in the United Kingdom, who died after she refused potentially life-saving treatment for her breast cancer because doctors told her the treatment would endanger the life of the child she was bearing. Milai had three other children from a previous relationship.

Milai lived long enough to see her son born, but by then her disease had progressed beyond treatment. She was brought to a hospice after her delivery and this is where she passed away. Her parish priest, who seems to have been the main source for the story as he was raising money to repatriate Milai's remains, said that for Milai, the most important thing was the birth of her baby and "she would not do anything to harm him—having an abortion was never a consideration."

Coincidentally, I happened to watch the TV show "House" last Tuesday evening and the storyline was eerily similar to Milai's story: a woman with a late-term pregnancy (after two failed ones) is found to have an aggressive form of throat cancer but refuses treatment to save her life, arguing that a premature delivery would endanger the life of her child. When she tells Dr. Gregory House, a blunt-speaking, no-nonsense doctor, of her decision, this is what he tells her: "If you want to use your body as a temporary incubator, fine, I don't care. But if you're doing it to shield your kid from all the s—t in the world, you're not."

* * *

MILAI'S story, and the treatment it got in the local press, amply illustrates the value that Philippine society (and most other societies in the world) attaches to motherhood. Though Milai lived in the United Kingdom, her experience applies just as well, maybe more, in the Philippines. For Filipino women, motherhood is central to their identity, and motherhood is not just celebrated and venerated, but also romanticized, with the feminine ideal embodied in the self-sacrificing mother who will do anything for her children, even to the point of giving up her life. As one Miss Universe candidate intoned: "The essence of a woman is motherhood."

Perhaps this is one reason advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights face an uphill battle in winning the "hearts and minds" of the Filipino public. There is hardly any room for rationality or for dispassionate arguments and plain speaking, in the manner of Dr. House, when it comes to debating issues like abortion, family planning, assisted fertility and even stem-cell research.

* * *

THIS same emotional, value-laden and "romantic" approach to motherhood and fertility is reflected in the way laws and policies on reproductive health issues are crafted in this country. Too often, laws and policies are based, not on evidence or current scientific and sociological data, but on personal assumptions and perceptions of legislators and decision-makers, who are hardly representative of the majority of the population.

There is also the prevailing view that laws and policies are supposed to be wielded as instruments to impose morals, values and desired behavior on people, rather than crafted to better respond to current and concrete needs of constituents. For instance, for well over a decade, public opinion surveys have consistently shown that the populace basically supports a rational population policy, with respondents believing every couple should have the right to freely decide on the method they will use to decide their family size. If these survey results had been on any other policy issue, like say gasoline prices or taxes, the government would have responded immediately to the public clamor. But why aren't our officials listening to the people on this issue? *(To be concluded)*

'Kamaru'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHAT IS FOOD TO ONE IS POISON TO ANOTHER.

The first time I heard this line was when an aunt had her whole refrigerator cleaned because an unwrapped melon spread its smell and flavor on everything else inside. At the time, I didn't understand what the fuss was all about because my sense of smell is impaired and I happen to like melon. I'm the only one in our family who doesn't partake of the exotic and allegedly aphrodisiac fruit called durian. When everyone starts to compare notes about local and imported durian, I excuse myself and explain that it is not the smell that turns me off, and neither is it the taste, which is quite agreeable. It's the creamy texture that I find disgusting.

Aside from allergies and other ailments that really determine what one may or may not eat, food preferences are personal. What we like or dislike is a result of our upbringing, our culture. How many times have we witnessed foreigners in a Filipino party being coaxed to try *balut*? I wonder how the same tormentors would feel if Chinese hosts took them to the famous Beijing restaurant that serves field rat.

I remember being a polite guest at a famous fish head restaurant in Singapore. I could eat with my hands off banana leaves, I could take the hot curry dishes, but when the monster of a fish head was placed in front of us, that was definitely a new experience. Doreen Fernandez used to explain that there were 13 different flavors in a fish head but though I have learned to relish steamed fish head, I have never quite made out all these subtle textures and flavors. As the honored guest, I was offered "the best part," which happened to be the eye that was scooped out of the socket and placed in front of me. It was the size of my palm and it stared at me atop the mound of steaming rice on my leaf. Everyone in the table looked at me as I put the whole thing in my mouth. I did not chew. I merely allowed the eye to slide down my throat whole with some help from a gulp of ice-cold Coca Cola.

When I was asked, "How do you find it?" The polite Pinoy lied and declared, "Delicious!"

Encouraged, the host then said, "In that case have the other one!" It was eyeball part two for me. And from then on, I have learned to try everything but to be honest about my likes and dislikes.

In the January 1934 issue of the Philippine Magazine is an article "A Rural Delicacy" by Delfin S. Dallo that deals with the Kapampangan specialty *kamaru* or mole cricket. One used to go all the way to Everybody's Café in San Fernando to find this dish always on the glass and stainless steel *turo-turo* counter. Then Larry Cruz brought it to Manila when he opened Bistro Remedios two decades ago. Today, it can always be found in the all-you-can-eat spread in Cabalen restaurant. These crickets are sautéed in onion and garlic and fried. They are quite tasty. The only problem is that they resemble wingless cockroaches. I would say they are crunchy on the outside, creamy on the inside. Dallo says a lot more, in sophomoric prose, but as an early food document, some excerpts are worth sharing in this space:

"Of all the delicacies in the whole *mundus edibilis*, there are only a few that can equal fried mole cricket in flavor (with apologies to Lamb). Among edible insects, I will maintain it to be the most delicate. It holds its own against the roasted pig, for the superior qualities of this stand out only when just from the spit and still hot, while the food I extol is appetizing whether hot or cold.

"The first taste in a fair trial of the plump, auburn, and not over-fried mole cricket will set the palate for a feast that will send this chief of rural delicacies into the grateful stomach of any judicious epicure. Every part is edible, save the limbs and wings. The cricket is good throughout—no part better than another.

"See them in the dish, their second cradle, how plump they appear, how fresh, yet how humble in the attitude of innocent lambs ready to be sacrificed! What an invitation to eat! What a load of nourishment in their rich circumferences! An animal manna! I said properly fried, not dressed, for there is no need of dressing, nor seasoning, nor spicing to render the dish ambrosial.

"Here is the relish you have been hungering for. And, a hint: it is best when the insects are caught during the period of gestation. Roasted pig is delicious, but what harm it inflicts when taken over-much due to the excess of fat. Turkey, national plate of the Americans, the swallow's nest of the Chinese, ham caviar, all these are excellent indeed, but how they suffer when placed over against fried mole cricket! They call for artificial dressings and a hundred different spices, while the plate to which I dedicate these lines is supplied with its own condiments. It possesses elements that arrest fermentation and is a sure guarantee against indigestion. Anyway, there is no fear from over-eating, for the supply never exceeds, or even approaches what economists call the demand. One always craves for more when there is no more."

For want of a suitable English word to describe it, Dallo describes *kamaru* as "malinamnam." I agree with this ode to the *kamaru* except that *lechon*, for me, is in a class by itself.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Native chic

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WITH TIGHT BUDGETS AND LONG "TO GIVE" LISTS FOR the holidays, it's tempting to just go to 168 or Divisoria for the cheap Chinese stuff. For wealthier Filipinos, there's always an impulse to go for all the other stuff flooding the country because of import liberalization, from junk foods to brand-name clothing, which, ironically, are now often cheaper than locally made goods.

We'll eventually have to pay for all this, as local industries collapse, and we lose even more jobs. For a change, let's look at how we can use the spirit of the holidays to help promote local industries and show how native can be chic.

One stop shopping

For starters, let's replace those imported Christmas food baskets with local stuff. It's not hard to do. What I did was to concentrate on Farmers' Market and the Lung Center Sunday *tiangge*, but you can do something similar by patronizing your local wet market and *tiangge*.

I have to say the new Farmers' Market is quite impressive, part of the facelift the Araneta Center's been getting. It's clean, spacious and safe, although all this has meant higher rents for the vendors. You have to pay more now for their produce, but generally Farmers is still cheaper than the supermarkets.

A caveat here about marketing. The vendors will admit they have the same sources for their produce, which means their prices are becoming quite uniform. The differences come as you become a *suki* (loyal customer) or in your friendliness to vendors. You'll also find some vendors have stuff the others don't have, depending on the clientele they've acquired.

Let's get on now with the holiday baskets. First stop was a stall which still doesn't have a sign up. They're in the vegetables section, in between stalls owned by Lante and Susan. You can't miss it because of all the woven stuff they have, from baskets to brooms and *bayong* (shopping bag).

You just might end up getting some gifts here. What caught my eye were straw hats and brooms for kids, clay stoves, *sinamay* table mats and *gugo*, the original herbal shampoo, which goes for P10 a strip, same price as in Quiapo.

The baskets come in all sizes and shapes, but what I ended up getting were the *bayong* (shopping bags) made of sturdy *pandan*. I figured that after the holidays, the *bayong* can still be used for marketing, which is what I do. The vendors are always curious about my *bayong* and after I explain, I know they're thinking, "What a strange man, but he does make some sense."

Veggies

After you get your baskets or *bayong*, you need to figure out what to put in. No canned goods, please. Aim for fresh stuff. Since I don't eat meat, I figured I should be consistent and exclude meat products from my gifts. Vegetables for Christmas gifts? You'd be surprised how some of the vegetables keep without refrigeration. But yes, you do need to plan carefully for the ones that wilt easily.

The *bayong* shop is right in the vegetables section anyway so move on for the greens. Look for Zeny's stall. The first time I bought stuff from her, Zeny watched as I was picking out vegetables. I knew she wanted to say, "You sure don't know what's fresh, huh?" but, like many of our mothers, she just quietly began picking the good stuff and throwing out some of the ones I had picked. That's how I became her *suki*.

Zeny stocks some of the stuff you need for finer dining, including all kinds of mushrooms, *galangal* (the kind of ginger you use for *tom yum*), *dilaw* (still another kind of ginger), mint leaves (which will keep for a long time, and make a great tea), different kinds of lettuce, *arugula, kutsay* tips, *wansoy* (or if you want to be snobbish about it, cilantro) and beets. If she doesn't have something, she'll dash off and get it from another vendor for you.

Don't think Zeny only stocks the "*sosyal*" stuff. I go to her mainly for the more pedestrian stuff my Yna loves (why do you think I bother about marketing?): potatoes and *kamote* (purple and yellow ones) and carrots and cucumbers, as well as the condiments you need for cooking: garlic and spring onions and leeks (OK, so I got *sosyal* again).

Three other items for your native-chic, or should I say exotic veggies basket: *pako* (ferns), squash flowers (*bulaklak ng kalabasa*) and white corn. If you're into food fads, squash flowers are "in" now, usually fried as tempura, or folded into omelets, but it was a nice fellow shopper who gave me the best recipe yet, which is to boil the white corn in soup stock, and then add on the squash flowers. Beats the MSG-ridden packaged corn and egg soup you get in supermarkets.

Imported from Guimaras

At the back of the vegetables section, you'll find the *kakanin*, native cakes: all kinds of *puto* and *cuchinta*, and cassava cakes and *pinipig*. Some of the vendors also have *kesong puti* (white cheese) and carabao's milk, but I'd be careful about dairy products, especially for children, and for those with weak stomachs.

Next to the vegetables section are the fruits. I go to Fely, who stocks the sweetest mangoes from Guimaras and *lanzones* from Camiguin. Near the entrance (facing the flower shops), you have the Sangco fruit empire. Aling Melinda has a whole block of stalls with all kinds of fruits, but I go to her mainly for oranges from Nueva Vizcaya. The oranges vary in sweetness, but they are always bursting with juice.

Move around and check out the other fruits. Avocados are coming back into season, as are chicos. My point is to go for as many local fruits as possible. They're often more expensive than imported fruits, but at least we're patronizing local agriculture.

While you're at it, do make a pitch with the vendors to get more "local imported" (as in imported from Guimaras) stuff, and to source organic produce—you have to explain, meaning no pesticides and fertilizers.

If you need more stuff, go to Shoppesville on Katipunan for organic vegetables and the Lung Center *tiangge* on Sunday mornings, where you will have some stalls with fresh produce and foodstuff direct from the provinces. Parking's becoming a problem at the Lung Center *tiangge*, so go as early as you can.

There's other stuff you can put in your basket or *bayong*, like upland rice, but I haven't found a distributor in Manila. Local chocolate is a good choice, coming now in all versions, from the *tablea* to powdered forms. WomenLead also has good *barako* coffee, packaged in mini-*bayong*, part of its Save Barako Coffee campaign. Call them (436-6738) or drop by 45 Mapagkumbaba Street in UP Village.

Mix and match your food baskets. Include a book of local recipes. Or print out your own, explaining what to do with the squash flowers. Share new ideas and innovations related to the basket's contents. I've found the ferns go well with *latq* (seaweeds, which you can also get at Farmers) for a salad. And don't forget a little note explaining why you've gone native, why local's not just good but the best.

A glimmer of hope amid bleak political scenario

LETTERS

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO congratulate Team Philippines for a job well done. From the United Arab Emirates where I am at present based, I always checked on the Internet the medal standings of all the 11 teams (countries) that participated in the Southeast Asian Games recently held in Manila.

I would say that the overall championship of the 2005 SEA Games is a good Christmas present for all Filipinos wherever they are in the world. We won despite the poverty, economic crisis, political turmoil and other problems of the Philippines that engulf our nation. The win shows that we, Filipinos, have the ability to balance things out, and it brings us hope, which is what the Christmas spirit is all about.

Again, my sincerest congratulations to Team Philippines!

—MJOAN DLUNA,
408 Block B,
Building 18,
Al Baraha St.,
Deira, Dubai, UAE

Reds trying to ride on Bonifacio's revolution

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT the great hero Andres Bonifacio. To many of our poor peasants, it is he who deserves to be honored more than Dr. Jose Rizal for leading the Filipinos in rebelling against the Spaniards. And indeed, many of our countrymen today admire Bonifacio for his idealism and for what he did for the country.

But sad to say, some of these peasants are now being used by leftist groups in the latter's drive to grab power and for personal ends.

The "revolution against the government" that the communists are waging is not based on the revolution that our hero Bonifacio began. The communist revolution is a revolution against the people. Under this revolution, the communists extort money from businessmen, and they haven't spared the poor either. During encounters with government forces, they use children as shields. In the name of their "revolution," they burn or destroy transportation facilities, business establishments and other vital installations, even schools.

The communist revolution does not help alleviate the poverty of our people; it has only caused chaos, economic instability, fear and disunity among the Filipino people. We must not be blinded by the lies of the communist leadership.

—ANDRES R. TORREGOSO,
San Marcelino Street,
Manila

GMA doesn't understand economics

President Macapagal-Arroyo still beats former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and the widely rumored coup d'etat as the principal lightning rod of readers' comments.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

GLORIA ARROYO may be a Ph.D. holder but I don't believe she really understands economics. Working on inflation and unemployment while at the same time bragging about it is a display of pure ignorance and incompetence on the subject. Yet people believe her because she has a Ph.D. and is filthy rich.

Garcillano can tell stories about going to the moon, the sun and back, and he can get away with it. The opposition can cry foul till they die and nothing would happen.

Gloria owns the Philippines now. All we can do now is identify who's who and deal with them later when they're out of the spotlight and helpless. Only then can we collect their debts plus interest.

Meanwhile, if you credit the economy's growth to Gloria, think again. The economy is made up of businesses and individuals who spend. Businesses have managers capable of delivering "money" to the company. It's not Gloria who gave them the money. Businesses grow because they need to grow and survive; people work hard to earn.

Opportunity is everywhere, and it is not owned by Gloria. **—Waico Cabalo, waicocabalo@yahoo.com**

* * *

Let's just let the President do her job. I don't care whether she cheated or not, but had she really cheated, well glory to her: she saved the country from still greater shame by doing so!

The President should concentrate on her work and just make sure to provide the best for the government employees who really support her, e.g. the teachers and other employees of the government who are really doing their job, not just talking nonsense. These are the real heroes who go down to the grass roots and make a difference.

Madame President, the greatest fear of your detractors is that your work will shine brighter than theirs!**—Phillip Casey, phillip_cass2000 @yahoo.com**

* * *

When you see and hear all the bickering of the opposition and the administration politicians, you can't help but wonder if it was service to the people that made them decide to run for office.

How desperate they are for positions whose main aim is to serve their countrymen—even to the extent of discrediting, mudslinging, spying on each other.

The sad truth is it's all a struggle for power and wealth.**—Edwin Tayag, kurt_tayag@yahoo.co.uk**

* * *

Like most Filipinos today, I believe that for the nation to unite, we must have a high regard for truth and honesty. These virtues are essential in a democracy, contrary to the opinion of those who say we should forgive and forget whether or not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts lied and stole the true mandate of the people.

The late Fernando Poe Jr., though new in politics, deserved to run the nation, having really won the election. This was clearly deserved by his kind and big heart for the masses, unlike Gloria, who deserves nothing less than be crucified.**—Ruben Deigor, DENR-4, L and S Building, Roxas Boulevard, Manila**

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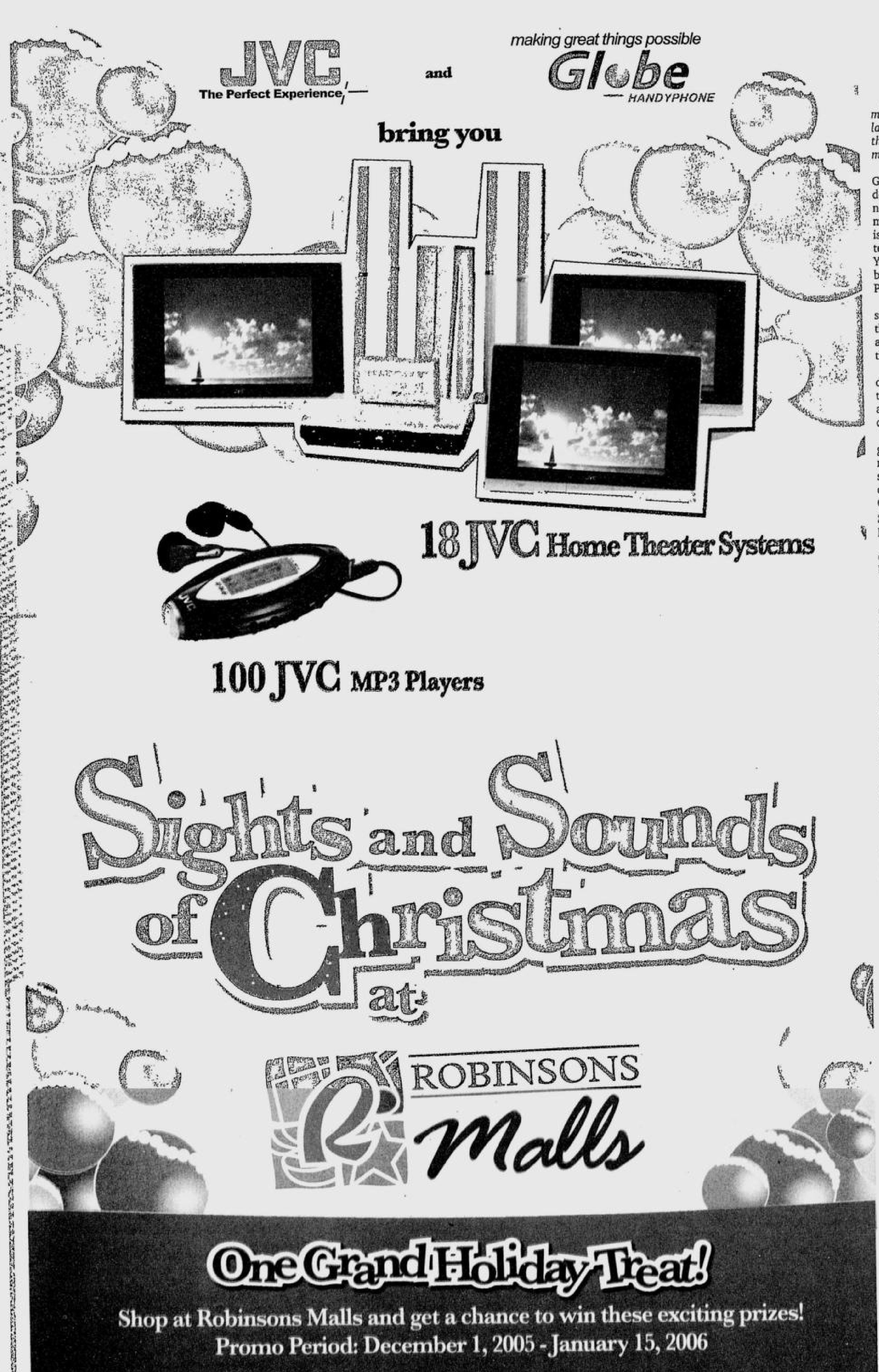

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Palparan renews all-out war on Reds

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—NOW THAT HIS PROMOTION has been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA), Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, has reiterated his campaign to rid his area of communist rebels and their supporters.

"We will look for you, wherever you are now and wherever you will seek cover," he said in an address to NPA rebels aired by a radio station here.

He asked residents in Central Luzon and parts of Pangasinan, where the 7th ID operates, to bear with the military campaign against the New People's Army.

"We will continue our job of cleaning our society of the enemies of the state to give you the desired peace. But please bear with us with the little inconvenience in our efforts to cleanse our places (of) our enemies," he said.

Palparan said he could now concentrate on his job because he would no longer be answering summons to prepare documents and other pieces of evidence to refute the charges of human rights violations filed against him before the CA.

His promotion was confirmed on Wednesday.

In an interview with radio station dzXO on Thursday, Palparan, 55, said: "*Papaspasan ko na ito* (I will do this without letup). My [military] career is ending."

He is set to retire in September next year. He assumed command of the 7th ID based in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City on Sept. 1.

He was previously assigned to Samar and Mindoro where human rights groups gave him the tag "berdugo" (executioner) because of the series of killings of activists and members of leftist organizations during his stints there.

Some 80 cases of murder and disappearance of militants were blamed on him. In his new assignment in Central Luzon, he was blamed for the murder of more than 10 militants in the last three months.

But Palparan denied any hand in these slayings.

He said his campaign against the NPA would deal with the "armed group, intelligence group and support group" of the communist movement.

"*Didikdikin natin sila* (We will pursue them relentlessly)," he said.

He ordered the deployment of more soldiers in villages suspected to be influenced by the NPA.

He asked the soldiers in his command to help him achieve the 7th ID's goal. "Let's continue working. Reach out to our people and understand their problems.

ROUNDUP

Reb slain in clash

LEGAZPI CITY—A New People's Army rebel was killed in a 15-minute encounter with Army soldiers in Barangay San Ramon, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Camarines Norte at about 11:15 a.m. on Monday. Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay said they turned over the body of the unidentified rebel to the San Lorenzo Ruiz police. Cabuay said his men recovered five M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, four anti-personnel landmines, an Icom radio and five jungle backpacks. He said soldiers of the 31st Infantry Battalion were acting on a report about the presence of armed men in the area when they encountered the 12-man rebel group.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cell phone thief nabbed

EEEEEE !!!
CELPHONE
KO !!

STA. ROSA CITY—Police arrested on Friday a woman who had allegedly snatched the phone units of four customers of the Big R. Robinson Mall in Barangay Tagapo here. A police report identified the suspect as Marites Provido, 25, of Bayanan, Muntinlupa City. The report said the complainants went shopping at about 5 p.m. when they found that their phone units had been stolen. Police said patrolmen assigned to the mall caught the suspect while in the act of stealing the Sony Erickson P910i of Jennifer Arevalo. Police said the other phone units were believed to have been taken by Provido's companions.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

B. Dalay; 68

BONIFACIA Dalay, mother of film director Felix Dalay, died on Dec. 14 at the Far Eastern University Hospital in Manila. She was 68. Her body lies at the Prudential Funeral on Maceda Street, Sampaloc, Manila, and will be brought to Paete, Laguna, at 10 a.m. today. She will be buried on Dec. 27 at the Paete cemetery.

Farmer leader's son killed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The son of a farmer leader in Bulacan was shot dead on Tuesday night in their house in San Miguel town, a report from the Kilusan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas said. The report said the attackers of Alfredo Mañaol Jr., 48, were led by a man who was armed with an M-16 rifle and a woman who carried a .45 cal. gun. They barged into the victim's house in Barangay Balaong at 8 p.m. while several armed men surrounded the house. The KMP said the elder Mañaol, chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan, was not hurt. His house is next to his son's. The younger Mañaol was also a member of the AMB.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Car thief rearrested

WALA KANG
KADALA-
DALA !!!

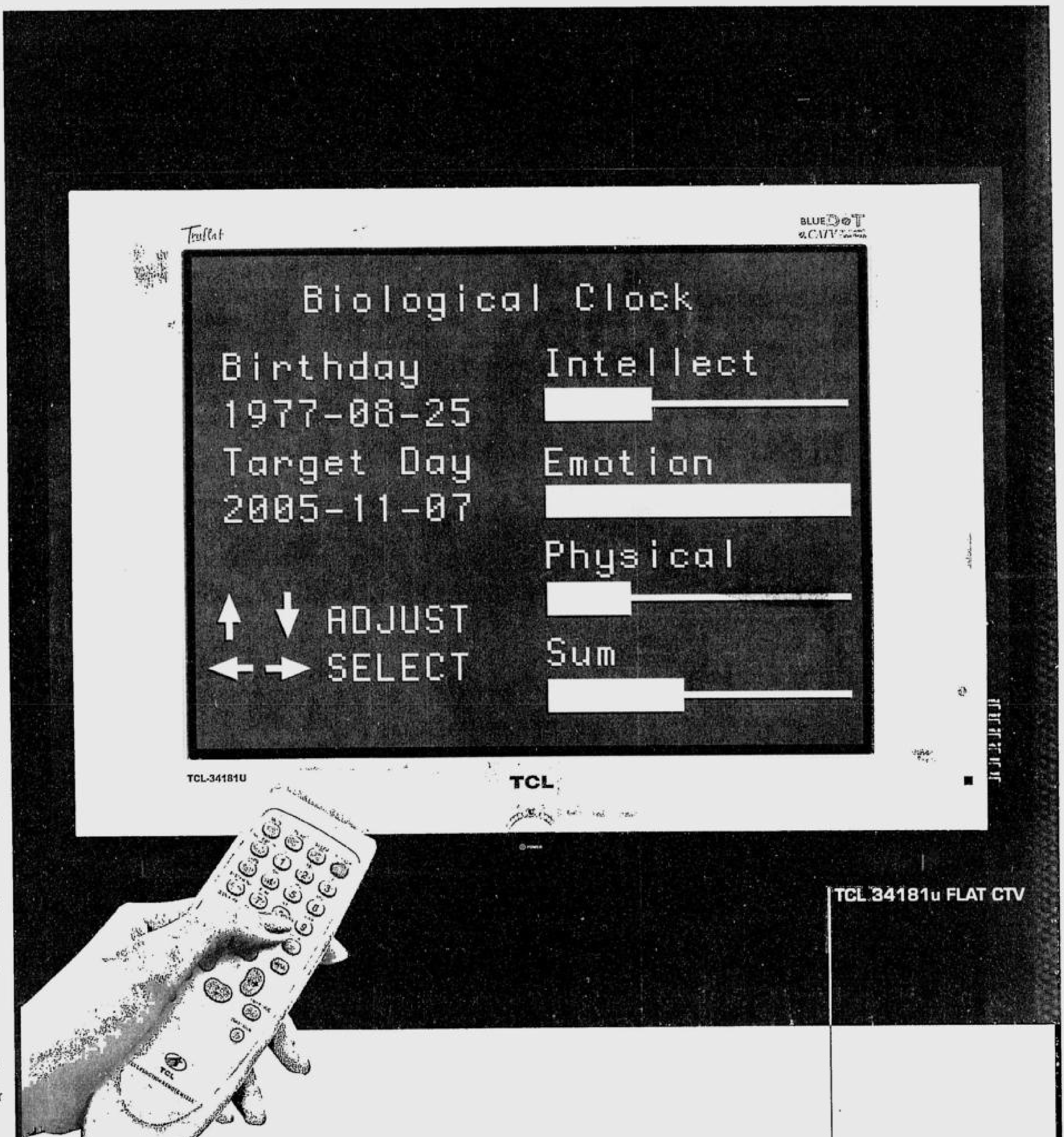
SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A 20-year-old suspected car thief who had just been released from prison two weeks ago was rearrested by the San Pedro police in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite at about 2 a.m. on Thursday inside a house in Barangay Virata here. Supt. Sergio Dimandal, San Pedro police chief, identified the suspect as Christopher Suan, alias Bumbay, who is also involved in a series of robbery cases in Laguna and Cavite.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cypriot found dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A Cyprus national was found dead inside his house in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Monday night, police said Wednesday. Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police director, identified the victim as Andreas Karaolis, 45, a canteen owner. Verzosa said the Dasmariñas police received a telephone call from Karaolis' wife Janet at around 10 p.m. informing them that she found the body of her husband on the floor of their apartment in Satellite Homes in Barangay San Jose. He said a police team quickly went to the area to check on the report. Police found blood in the victim's head. Janet later told police investigators that she was with her husband at their canteen 12 hours before he was found dead. She said the victim told her that he would just go home to take a rest at their apartment. Janet said her husband was confined earlier at the UMC Hospital for four days due to hypertension.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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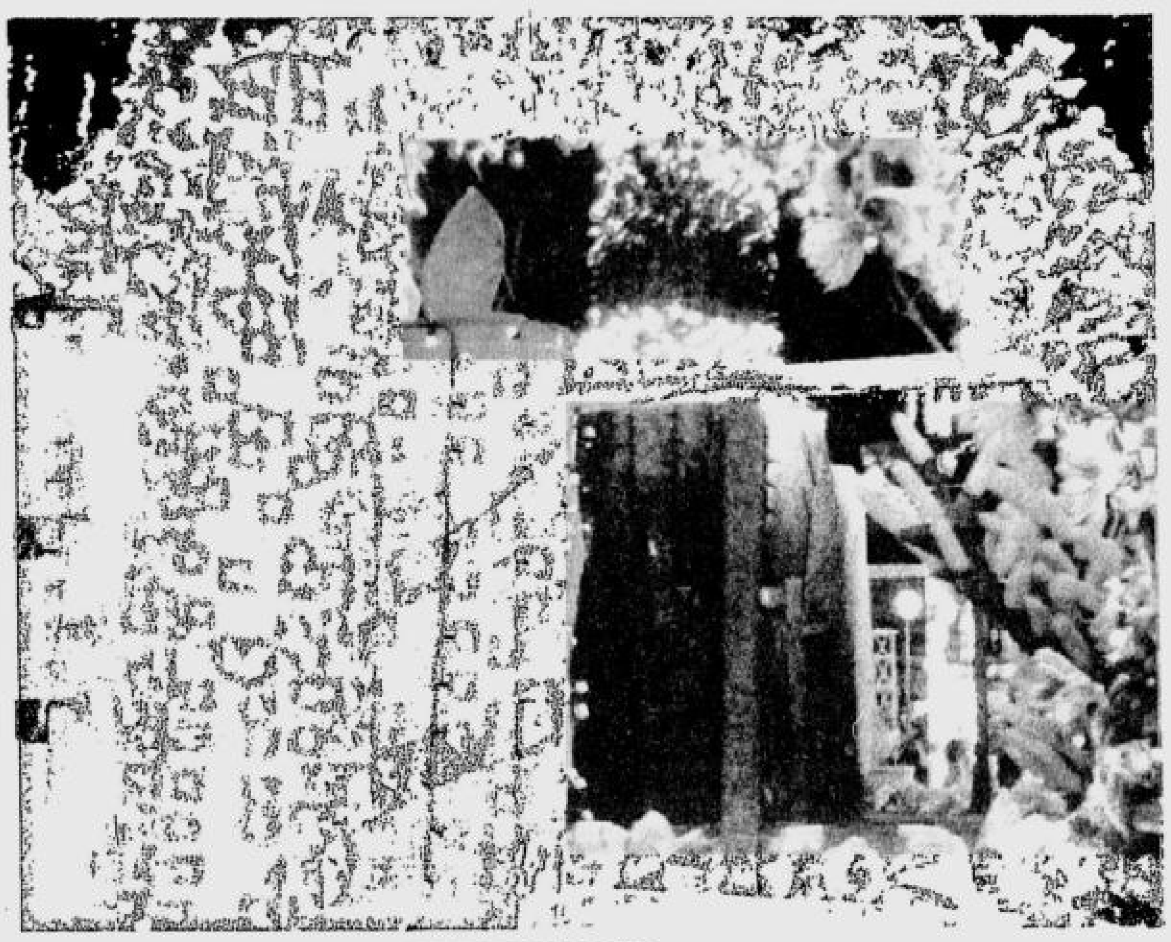
OZAMIZ CITY—NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA) guerrillas burned the powerhouse of the Globe Telecom tower in Balili Village of Kapatagan town in Lanao del Norte past midnight on Wednesday.

The attack was in response to a call made by the NPA General Command to hit Globe Telecom facilities for the company's failure to pay revolutionary taxes, said Adan Sindapan, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Western Mindanao.

The local police has not issued any official statement.

Sindapan said the company has a two-year backlog in its revolutionary tax obligations to the communist movement.

In a series of text messages to the INQUIRER, he related that the rebels climbed a 14-ft high steel fence to get to the unguarded compound, poured gasoline around the powerhouse then torched it. *Ryan Rosauro and Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



HOLIDAY LIGHTS GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
The plaza of Malaybalay City is ablaze with the colors of Christmas as the city government sponsored a Christmas lighting project in time for the holidays.

Iloilo assured of continued power supply

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—ENERGY SECRETARY Raphael Lotilla has assured Ilonggos of continued power supply amid threats of a power blackout in Iloilo City.

Lotilla, who spoke before the assembly of the Iloilo Business Club Wednesday night, said the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and power providers in the city "are committed to doing their best to ensure power supply especially during the Christmas season."

The Panay Power Corp. (PPC) earlier said it would be forced to stop operating its 72-megawatt power plant today because it could not pay its fuel supplier. PPC is the sole power provider to the Panay Electric Co. (Peco), which distributes electricity to the city's 180 barangays.

PPC said it has been operating at a loss because of Peco's debts of more than P250 million after the ERC slashed Peco's rates to its consumers by P2 per kilowatt-hour.

Peco has a pending petition before the ERC to restore its rates, by granting an increase of around P2 per kwh. The ERC earlier ordered the unbundling of Peco's charges and a reduction of its rates.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said they have issued a provisional authority to Peco to adjust its rates and to pay the actual cost of generation to PPC. But the order was still not released as of 3:30 p.m. yesterday because one of the five commissioners has not signed the resolution.

Albano said the amount of the increase would be set monthly until a final order of the ERC was issued.

"What is important is that PPC will not cease its operations," Albano told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Greggy Romualdez, Mirant public affairs manager, said the PPC "has come up with an arrangement" with its fuel supplier Shell.

He said the arrangement would allow their plant to continue operations for four days. "We continue to seek a lasting solution ...," said Romualdez.

Lotilla said the long-term solution to the power supply problem in the city and province relies on putting power supply plants in Panay.

He said the high prices of bunker fuel in the world market requires the putting up of additional power plants on the island. He cited the need to fast-track the construction of coal-fired power plants.

NBI nabs narc for extort

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation last week arrested an agent of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) for allegedly receiving marked money from the family of an illegal drug suspect.

The NBI said PO3 Erwin Garcia, who is assigned to the PDEA Cordillera office, was arrested on Dec. 10 while accepting P50,000 in marked bills from Christian Emily Bartolome, a dentist.

Garcia arrested Bartolome's husband, Englebert, in November for selling shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to undercover PDEA agents in November.

Bartolome had gone to the NBI Cordillera office and the Baguio City police office after Garcia and several PDEA officers promised to offer tampered evidence to reduce Englebert's case in exchange for P100,000, according to NBI agents who had placed Garcia under surveillance.

Supt. Bernardo Borrinaga, PDEA Cordillera director, told the INQUIRER on Thursday that an internal affairs investigation was ongoing. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Insure to be Sure.

Execs to probe food poisoning of teachers

LEGAZPI CITY—CITY MAYOR NOEL ROSAL has ordered a thorough investigation of the case of food poisoning due to bad chop suey, which sent about 114 teachers to different hospitals in this city on Monday.

City budget officer Ofelia Baldano said she learned that what was supposed to be in the menu were rice, pork chop and pinakbet.

But teacher-patients interviewed by the INQUIRER said it was chop suey that they ate at lunch time after their activities during the Teachers Day celebration on Monday.

The City Hall partly shouldered the cost of the meals for about 1,000 teachers.

The catering service was contracted by the Legazpi City Teachers Association.

Hours after taking the food, the affected teachers suffered from continuous abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration starting Monday night.

The INQUIRER went to the residence of the caterer, Veronica Rogando, a former Department of Education Legazpi City Division district supervisor, to get her side but a house-help said she was not around.

Dr. Rogelio Rivera, chief of the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH) based in this city, confirmed that the teachers were positive of food poisoning due to chop suey as claimed by his patients.

At least 64 victims were taken to the BRTTH as of Tuesday night but most of them were discharged yesterday morning after showing signs of recovery.

Only six were left as of yesterday afternoon as they were still under observation, including four pregnant teachers who gave birth ahead of schedule—one by cesarian operation.

Rosal had ordered the City Health Office to shoulder the medical expenses of the teachers.

Accompanied by city health officer Sarah Vasquez, he immediately made a round of the hospitals on Monday to check on the condition of the poisoned teachers. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TOWN Mayor Rogelio Leon of Kapangan, Benguet takes a huge bite out of a slice of yacon, an indigenous rootcrop that thrives in cold regions. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

'Yacon' seen substitute crop for marijuana

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—INTERIOR SECRETARY Angelo Reyes and Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, are staking all their resources in yacon, a rootcrop indigenous to cold climate regions, which they are offering to marijuana farmers as a more profitable alternative to weed.

Mayors of Benguet, Mt. Province, Kalinga and Ifugao, where marijuana plantations continue to proliferate, signed up for Lomibao's and Reyes' yacon project on Wednesday at the Cordillera police office here on the promise that yacon plantations will match the yield and value of high grade marijuana.

Benguet Vice Gov. Crescencio Pacalso said local officials are eager to try this new solution because the province needs to remove its continuing stigma as one of the country's top marijuana producers.

Yacon is believed to have healing properties, based on research made by Rodolfo Quero Sr., who is described here as yacon's discoverer and advocate.

Chief Supt. Leonardo Dionisio, Cordillera police director, said businessmen have offered to market yacon as a health drink, on the condition that Quero holds on to yacon's patents.

"Yacon grows like marijuana, so we might as well plant yacon... I have been studying the marijuana situation in this region, and I realized that the farmers themselves do not use marijuana. This only tells me that they treat marijuana production as their livelihood, and matching that livelihood with something equally economical is key to eradicating weed farms in the region," Dionisio said in a press conference on Wednesday.

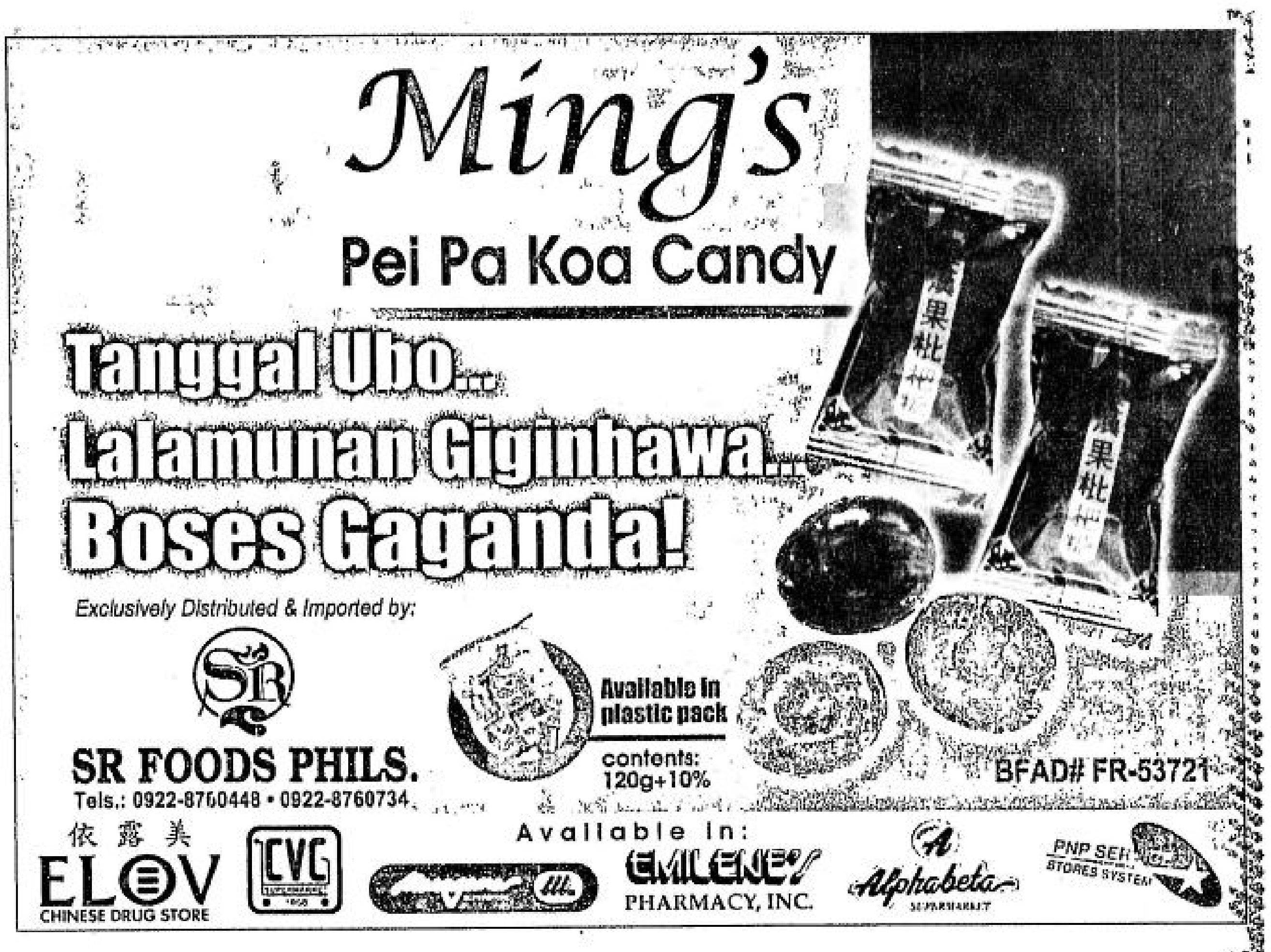
Kapangan Mayor Rogelio Leon led a livelihood program in 2003 and 2004 that converted selected marijuana farms into anthurium gardens.

"But we recently learned that we were cultivating a much older species of anthuriums, so our products were only selling for P20 a dozen. The market has shifted to a more expensive anthurium species and we need to start again from scratch to compete with this new demand," Leon said.

Yacon may be a viable alternative, he said, but farmers will need to determine if the market will be sustainable.

Leon and Bakun Mayor Marcelo Contada attended the program launching here, which was marked by the burning of a P20 million marijuana haul from their towns.

Police reported confiscating P50 million worth of marijuana from the Benguet towns of Kapangan, Bakun and Kibungan; Bauko town in Mt. Province; and Tinoc town in Ifugao.



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Pei Pa Koa Candy
Tanggal Ubo...
Lalamunan Giginhawa...
Boses Gaganda!
Exclusively Distributed & Imported by:
SR FOODS PHILS.
Tels.: 0922-8760448 • 0922-8760734
Available in plastic pack
contents: 120g+10%
BFAD# FR-53721
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依露美 ELOV CHINESE DRUG STORE
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EMILENE'S PHARMACY, INC.
Alphabeta SUPERMARKET
PNP SEI STORES SYSTEM

Over P1,000,000 in cash prizes!
Text EQPROMO to 2955 now!
EQ ECONOMY & QUALITY
TEXT-PANALO NEW YEAR PA-PREMYO
1 Bumili ng EQ Regular, EQ Colors o EQ Dry at itago ang resibo*!
2 Hanapin sa resibo ang Transaction Number o Serial Number (SN) at i-text kasama ang ibang detalye sa 2955.
3 Bumili ng mas madaming EQ diapers para mas malaki ang tsansang manalo!

Promo Mechanics

1) The promo is open to post-paid and pre-paid subscribers of Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, Addict Mobile and Sun Cellular.

2) To get a chance to win, a participant must:
   a) Purchase a pack of EQ Regular, EQ Colors or EQ Dry of any variant or size
   b) Keep the tape receipt and take note of the receipt's SERIAL NUMBER or TRANSACTION NUMBER (these are marked SERIAL NO. or "S/N" or TRANSACTION NO. and usually found at the top or bottom portion of the receipt).
   c) Text EQPROMO REG <TAPE RECEIPT NO >/<STORE WHERE EQ WAS PURCHASED>/<DATE OF PURCHASE>/<FULL NAME>/<ADDRESS> to 2955

Example: EQPROMO REG 77-888/Landmark/Oct 6/Gardi Fuentes/120 Union St., Quezon City

3) One-time registration only. There should be one registered name per cellphone number

4) For succeeding entries, participants simply need to text EQPROMO <TAPE RECEIPT NO >/<STORE WHERE EQ WAS PURCHASED>/<DATE OF PURCHASE> to 2955.

Example: EQPROMO 777888/SM SUPERMARKET/OCT 27

5) For every successful & valid message sent, participants will earn one raffle entry to the monthly and grand draw. One tape receipt number is equivalent to one entry regardless of size and quantity of EQ product reflected in that receipt. Entries with incomplete information will not be considered as valid entries

IMPORTANT: Tape receipts must indicate the product EQ. For receipts that do not, consumer must request for an OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE and have the EQ product purchased specified in the OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE. He must use the OR or Cash Invoice No. as entry to the promo in the format indicated. DO NOT FORGET to keep both the tape receipt and the OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE as these will be required when claiming the prize.

6) Participants must keep all their tape receipts as proof of purchase. Failure to present the receipt which contains the winning Tape Receipt Number and transaction details will disqualify the winner from claiming the prize

7) A successful registration, which includes the initial entry is free. For succeeding entries, cost for each successful message sent and received is P 2.50 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, Addict Mobile, Infinity, and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers. The same rates apply to erroneous registrations.

Draw Dates	Deadline for Texting of Entries	Prizes/ Number of Winners
Nov 4, 2005 1st Monthly Draw 5:30pm	Nov 4, 2005 4:59pm	1 winner of P100,000 5 winners of P20,000 each 5 winners of P8,000 each
Dec 2, 2005 2nd Monthly Draw 5:30pm	Dec 2, 2005 4:59pm	1 winner of P100,000 5 winners of P20,000 each 5 winners of P8,000 each
Jan 6, 2006 Grand Draw 5:30pm	Jan. 6, 2006 4:59pm	1 winner of P500,000 2 winners of P50,000

8) The winners will be drawn electronically via randomizer. The draw will be held at the JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc office, 31/F Raffles Corporate Centre, Emerald Ave., Pasig City in the presence of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., DTI, and Direct Image Dimensions representatives.

9) Winners may win only once in each draw. In case a person's name is drawn more than once, he is entitled to the prize of greatest value. Non-winning entries are qualified for the succeeding draws.

10) Winners will receive a call on their mobile phones and will be notified via a registered notification letter.

11) Prizes are transferable.

12) Winners will shoulder the 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000. Incidental expenses related to winning and redemption, including but not limited to, travel expenses to claim prize, etc., will be for the account of the winners.

13) All employees of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., Direct Image Dimensions, Global Wireless Connections and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

14) To receive weekly promo updates, text EQPROMO ON to 2955. For further inquiries text in EQPROMO ASK <your question> to 2955. Same text rates apply.

Promo runs from Oct 6, 2005 to Jan 6, 2006
See posters and flyers for more details
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2366 series of 2005

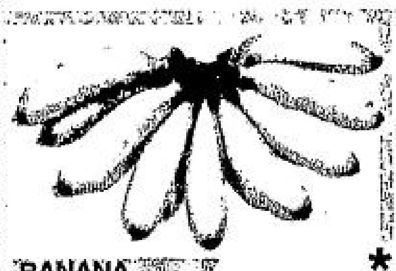
Robinsons Supermarket

WOW! Low low prices

Year-End Price Blast!

December 16-30, 2005

WASHINGTON
RED APPLE #125
P19 /pc *

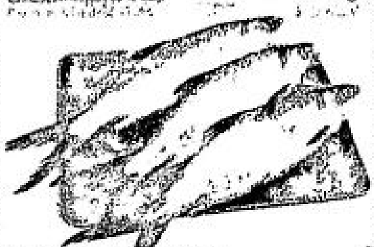


BANANA
Lacatan
P 30 /kg *

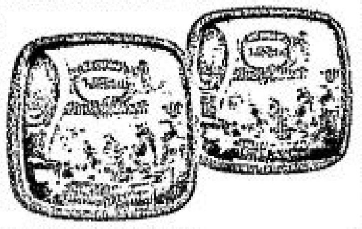
PECHAY
Wombok
P 35 /kg *

Tender Juicy

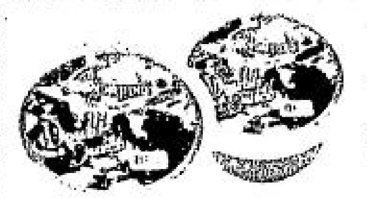
PUREFOODS
TJ Hotdog
Regular
1kg
P148.95 each *



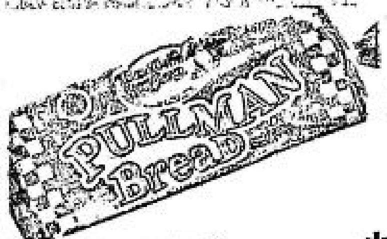
BANGUS
3-4
Medium
P 68 /kg *



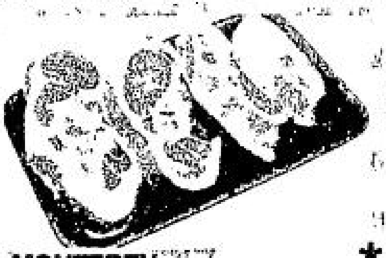
NESTLÉ
Back2Back
Grand Pistachio and
Chocolate & Cherries 750ml
P94.25 each *



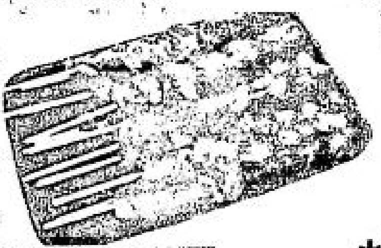
EL FAVORITO
Double Dutch
1/2 gal
P189.25 each *


PULLMAN Bread

LEMON SQUARE
Pullman Bread
P30.75 each *



MONTEREY
Pata Sliced
P114 /kg *



MONTEREY
Pork Barbeque
Skewered
P164 /kg *

* Prices not applicable in Visayas and Mindanao

SAN MIG COFFEE
Sugar Free
7g (10's)

San Mig Coffee
San Mig Coffee
San Mig Coffee
Strong

Mild	Original	Strong
P41.90 each	P35.25 each	P44.25 each

HOT BUY

NESTEA
Green Tea
200g
P30.75 each

NESTEA GREEN TEA
NESTEA GREEN TEA

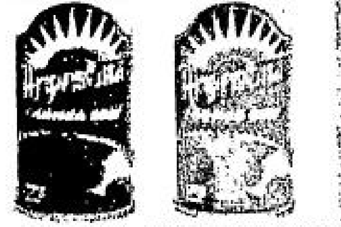
EVEREADY
Gold
P111.75 each

AA
EVEREADY GOLD

AA Battery

AAA
EVEREADY GOLD

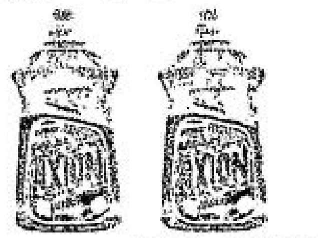
AAA Battery



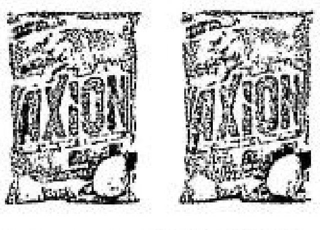
P 24 each
ARGENTINA
Corned Beef
175g

FREE Pandan Tumbler

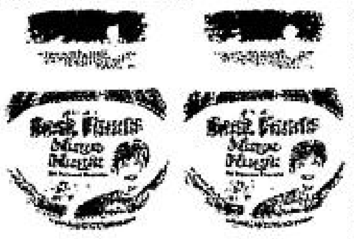
P104.50 each
OVALTINE
Power
600g



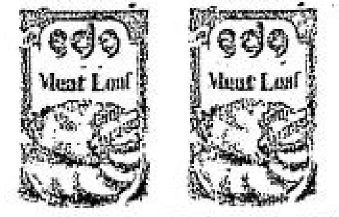
P44.25 each
AXION
Dalandan with
Baking Soda
250ml



P26.75 each
AXION
Dalandan with
Baking Soda
190ml


Best Foods Mayo Magic

P 61.75 each
BEST FOODS
Mayo Magic
470ml


cdo Meat Loaf
cdo Meat Loaf

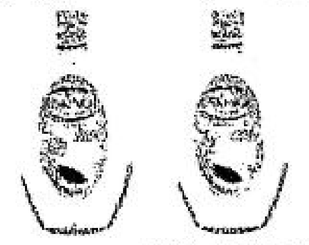
P 14.10 each
CDO
Meat Loaf w/ Cheese
150g

Jolly Fruit Cocktail

P 43.50 each
JOLLY
Tropical Fruit Cocktail
850g

Best Foods Real Mayonnaise

P85.10 each
BEST FOODS
Real Mayonnaise
470ml



P48.75 each
ESKINOL
Facial Cleanser
Papaya
225ml

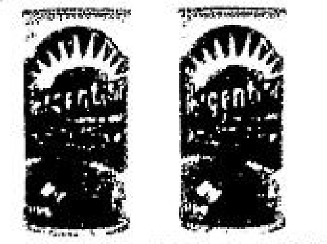
P41.75 each
AXION
Dalandan with
Baking Soda
400g

P34.25 each
DEL MONTE
Sweet Blend Ketchup
567g

P 42.50 each
KANKUNIS
Hearbal Slimming Tea
4's

Curly Spaghetti

P 9.50 each
LUCKY MEI
Curly Spaghetti
60g

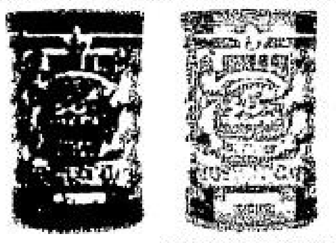


P26.50 each
ARGENTINA
Chunky Corned Beef
190g

P118 each
BIOFIT TEA
Herbal Dietary Tea
30's

Master
Master
Master

P67.75 each
MASTER
Facial Scrub
Classic
100ml



P23.75 each
JOLLY
Mushroom Whole
400g

P 27 each
MONDE
Voice Combo Sandwich
25g (10's)

cdo Chunkisado
cdo Chunkisado

P 22.30 each
CDO
Chunkisado
Karne Norte
175g

P34.25 each
DEL MONTE
Original Blend Ketchup
567g

FREE Pandan Sling Bag
Ovaltine
Ovaltine

P169.75 each
OVALTINE
Power
1kg

Argentina MEAT LOAF
Argentina MEAT LOAF

P 14 each
ARGENTINA
Meat Loaf
170g

Magnolia
Chee
Cheezee
Mas Pinasarap
Milk Protein

MAGNOLIA
Cheezee
200g
P 27.25 each

Eat Well
Spend Less

PER DTI - NCR PERMIT # 7035 SERIES OF 2005

- ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
- Tutuban Center
- Metropolis Star Alabang
- Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Circle C Center, Congressional
- Malabon Citisquare
- Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
- Nepo Mall Dagupan
- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Banilad Town Center, Cebu
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

Abat invited but detained

From page A1

Abat is not under arrest. He is, however, detained right now for purposes of tactical interrogation and probable inquest by our state prosecutors."

"Right now, we can hold him for at least nine hours without filing charges," Gonzalez said, "but I ordered that he first go to the hospital, considering his physical condition."

The move was "not yet an arrest," Gonzalez stressed. "It's just a detention. In effect, it was an invitation. Then we can detain him after that invitation."

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the police had provided the DOJ evidence, mainly the testimony of witnesses, to support their case.

Detain in hospital

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the NCR-CIDG, said the four men were to spend the night in its custody.

Dolina said he had made arrangements with the Philippine National Police General Hospital in Camp Crame for the four men to spend the night there.

Velasco said the DOJ had until noon today to determine whether there was a basis to take the case to court.

The four men were "under restriction" and not yet considered suspects or detainees, he said.

But lawyer Reynaldo Robles said Abat's group was considering filing charges of illegal arrest and arbitrary detention against the police as well as the officials who had ordered the arrests.

Robles also dismissed the police's case as baseless, arguing that the utterances they had cited—among others, "Gloria, step down," "You have no moral authority to govern," and "This government should not last a second more"—were not seditious.

Abat supporters could do nothing when, at around 11 a.m., at least a dozen policemen whisked their leaders off to a waiting vehicle outside Club Filipino.

THE PATIENT IS IMPATIENT to get back to brass tacks as he's suddenly sidelined with a checkup at the PNP General Hospital at Camp Crame after he was "invited" by cops to leave Club Filipino. JOAN BONDOC

The policemen led by Senior Inspectors Jacinto Malinao and Victor Loon presented no arrest warrants. They said they were simply carrying out orders "from no less than the Chief PNP (Director General Arturo Lomibao)."

"All the time they were there [at Club Filipino], they were inciting [people] to sedition. It was a continuing offense; there was no need for an arrest warrant," Dolina told the INQUIRER.

Abat managed to smile as three to five people formed a ring around him to keep the media at bay, and guided him out of the Waling-Waling Room and into a maroon AUV.

Señeres and Serapio argued that since they were being invited, they had "the right to turn it down." Abat said that without an arrest warrant, he was staying put.

After a while, Malinao said he and his men were only following Lomibao's orders to take Abat and company to Camp Crame.

'Pick them up'

Señeres asked to speak to Malinao's superiors.

The officer left the room and called someone on a mobile phone. After a few minutes, he rang off and told his men: "*Bitbitin na* (Pick them up)."

The cops closed in on the group. Serapio protested and tried to resist, but the cops grabbed his arms and forcibly took him outside.

As he was being taken away, Señeres was heard saying that the move was "going to be very bad" for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Abat and Enriquez offered no resistance.

From Club Filipino, Abat was brought to the PNP General Hospital, where doctors examined him.

Doing well

Velasco, who arrived in Camp Crame at 3 p.m. with three other prosecutors to conduct the inquest, said the retired general was doing well.

After examining Enriquez, Serapio and Señeres at the CIDG office, Dr. Paul Ortiz of the PNP Crime Laboratory told the INQUIRER: "Their blood pressure was fine. They had no bruises or wounds."

Bail for the crime of inciting to sedition, which can also be considered a continuing offense, is set at around P6,000.

Velasco said a warrantless arrest was not necessarily invalid.

It is valid "if [the crime] is committed in your presence, in the presence of any citizen, or the presence of any authority ... or is an ongoing crime and the arresting persons have personal knowledge of the crime," he said.

A woman claiming to be Abat's counsel, Fatimah Remedios Balbin, also said the arrest was illegal.

She said Abat was simply exercising his right to free speech.

A copy of the police complaint signed by Dolina said Abat's group had uttered "some seditious words" during their press conference.

These utterances "tend to disturb the public peace," the complaint said.

Indifference

In a two-page statement titled "I Fear Not the Night Before the Dawn," which he released after his arrest, Abat chided "youthful leaders" for their supposed indifference to the people's search for someone who would liberate them.

Abat said he was arrested because "I dared to heed the longing cry of 85 million Filipinos for a man who would lead them out of the tyranny of corruption and incompetence of the present administration."

He said he should be living a quiet life now "after having served the nation for over 50 years as guerrilla fighter, soldier and ambassador."

"But I am not," he said. "Indeed, I find it a shame that given the ills and misrule that bedevil our beloved country, none of our young generation of leaders would stand up and take the lead to do something.

"Where are our youthful leaders? Many who are expected to respond to the plea of our people for a change are instead in the sidelines jeering and ridiculing the effort of those who, out of a sense of patriotism, choose to act."

No search warrant

A 4-by-5-meter tarpaulin banner with the image of Abat and the words "Gloria Step Down" was among the "evidence" taken by CIDG investigators from the Waling-Waling Room of Club Filipino.

A five-member CIDG team led by Supt. Atanacio Macalan swept the function room for evidence about two hours after Abat and company were taken away.

Macalan said a search warrant was not necessary because the sweep was part of the ongoing investigation of Abat and his associates, who were all members of the Christians for National Survival and the Coalition for National Unity (CNS/CNU).

"We just want to make it clear that we inspected the room for documents," Macalan told former Defense Undersecretary Wilson Gamboa and CNS secretary general MD Rebueno, who were stationed at the function room.

Evidence?

The police also took a banner with the words "Tanggapan ng Bagong Pamahalaan (Office of the New Government)" and another with the words "Luklukan ng Bagong Pamahalaan" (Seat of the New Government)."

They likewise took more than two dozen miniature Philippine flags, an official Philippine flag, and a number of stickers with the words "We Love Gen. Abat."

The police asked Gamboa to sign a document stating that he was giving the team permission to take the banners and the other items.

"There's nothing seditious about these things," said Gamboa, who once served in the defense department under Abat.

Rebueno said he would stay put "until ordered relieved."

GMA orders arrest of 'transition president'

From page A1

Rear Adm. Mateo Mayuga, the Navy flag officer in command.

Ermita said Abat's arrest was the "command responsibility" of Esperon.

But Gonzalez said the decision to pick up Abat and company for questioning was his and Lomibao's alone. He said the President had left it to him to deal with the situation.

Gaining support

Gonzalez said the government had decided to move against Abat and his group because of indications that his "revolutionary transition government," with himself as president, was gaining some support.

Gonzalez cited the case of Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, one of the leaders of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, who escaped and vowed to "join the fight for a credible government."

"Faeldon has given a statement saying that in effect he is joining the transition government. I think he was encouraged by what Abat is doing," Gonzalez said, adding:

"I think that it's somehow generating some support from people who are thinking along the same lines and who have the capability to move."

Ermita said that while Malacañang was reluctant to move against Abat on Wednesday lest the former defense secretary gain sympathy, the earlier reactions of lawmakers prompted it to take action.

"I was watching television [on Wednesday] and the reactions of Senate President [Franklin] Drilon, Sen. [Joker] Arroyo and Speaker [Jose] de Venecia showed that they were not treating it seriously. They said 'Just let [Abat] be,'" Ermita said.

Per Ermita's reckoning, Abat could have gone home on his own had the media not made his actions a newsworthy event.

But for all that, Ermita said he sympathized with his ex-boss: "I was a colonel under him. He was a good general. What got into him, I do not know. He talked to me only two months ago, just to say hello."

Not by his lonesome

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned the government against "mishandling" Abat's case, saying it could draw sympathy to him and trigger further unrest.

"I don't think General Abat was envisioning a unilateral move by his lonesome," Biazon said, adding that Abat could be counting on the support of certain sectors and expecting to gather a critical mass for his move.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, Ms Arroyo's former national security adviser, aired a similar warning: "The government must be very, very careful in handling the Abat case. His rights and dignity must be fully respected. While many criticize and question his recent posturing, no one can question his motives and integrity.

"The government must be careful not to make Abat a martyr and rallying figure."

But Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said Abat could "sound the death knell for the anti-Arroyo movement."

"Abat may be doing the administration a favor. He is making people see the irrelevance, absurdity and futility of efforts to destabilize and topple the government. Filipinos will all the more disdain and stay away from protest or destabilization moves against the President. The people will lump them all together as one gang out to serve their own messianic and political agenda," Claudio said.

Catch-22

He also said the government would continue to look into "individuals or groups with sinister designs that were conspiring with or using Abat."

Gonzalez cited text messages calling on the people to rally behind Abat, as well as reports that groups whose common objective was to bring down the Arroyo administration were already moving toward Club Filipino.

He reiterated an earlier statement that Abat's actions had put the government in a Catch-22 situation: If it took Abat seriously, it might generate sympathy; if it ignored him, he might succeed in inciting people to join him.

"As far as we are concerned, Abat is going too far, having announced that he is the president of the Republic of the Philippines, appointing members of his so-called Cabinet," Gonzalez said, adding:

"He even announced yesterday that he would abolish Congress, the Commission on Elections, the Supreme Court, etc."

And that, Gonzalez said, was "not funny anymore" because it was "encouraging people to do things."

Thus, he said, he and Lomibao decided to pick up Abat and company for questioning.

Love of country

Golez said that "notwithstanding his recent actions," Abat had "served our country well, much better than anyone" in defense, the military and the police.

"He served as Army commanding general, ambassador and defense secretary, and I have no doubt on his patriotism and love of country," Golez said. "He even lost a young son in the fight against the insurgency."

Golez was referring to the late 2nd Lt. Tito Fortunato Abat, a 1978 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, who was killed in an encounter with New People's Army guerrillas on Feb. 2, 1979.

"He (Abat) was the Army commanding general at that time, and he could have used his influence to assign his son to a safe area. But he did not," Golez said.

But the President's allies in the House called on the Department of Justice "not to dilly-dally" in filing sedition charges against Abat.

In a statement, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, vice chair of the committee on justice, said the actions of Abat and company were illegal.

Libanan said that while he believed that it was impossible for Abat to generate public support, and that his acts were "at worse, a nuisance and distraction," the government was duty-bound to punish lawbreakers.

Said Nograles: "They cannot just declare a revolutionary transition government and get away with it. They will again commit this offense if not immediately charged and punished."

Deception

Biazon said there was an element of deception by the authorities when they "invited" Abat to come out of Club Filipino and then arrested him.

If it was an arrest, it should have been made clear to Abat so that he could be read his rights and allowed to get a lawyer, said Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff.

Renato Reyes, Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the Arroyo administration was on "a witch-hunt of so-called destabilizers, piecing together one conspiracy theory after another."

"We may not fully agree with Abat's 'revolutionary transition government' but we sympathize with his calls for changes in the country's leadership," Reyes said, adding:

"For all the criticisms hurled against him, he still raises a valid point in opposing the administration."

Valid point

Sanlakas, a militant group from the other faction of the Philippine Left, condemned the warrantless arrest of Abat and his group.

"In as much as we do not support Abat's proclamation and formation of a 'revolutionary transition government,' we [view his arrest] as a suppression of his freedom to declare the illegitimacy of the Arroyo regime and the need to establish a transitional government to take its place," said Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza. ***With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac***

---

2 women in birthday suits upstage 'Oblation runners'

From page A1

The organizer, the UP Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity, quickly denied that it had a hand in the women's surprise appearance. "We have no idea who they are," said the fraternity's media liaison officer, Joselito Narciso Caparino.

"That was not part of (the) Oblation Run. We never allow that," Caparino said.

The women surfaced just moments after the male streakers left the hall at about 11:45 a.m. They were cheered on by a big crowd, including high school and college students, teachers, office workers and reporters.

The women emerged from a car in the parking lot and ran toward the Oblation Statue, as cameras snapped away.

Some spectators said the pair did not look like Filipinos but had Oriental features. They wore masks and wigs of long, curly reddish brown hair.

The women did not say anything, but stayed just long enough to pose for photographers—even taking instructions about their movements—before fleeing toward a waiting car, which sped away.

'We felt insulted'

The APO said an investigation was in order. "We felt insulted because only APO members are supposed to join the Oblation Run," Caparino said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

At nearby Palma Hall, where fraternity runners were to make a second appearance and a much bigger audience waited, the crowd was abuzz about the women streakers.

"You should have been at Quezon Hall. There were women (who ran naked) there," a spectator told his companions. Some people expected the women to reappear but left disappointed.

Roses for the women

Even so, hundreds of students—many from other schools—who filled the lobby could not hide their excitement when about 20 young men wearing only masks and clutching roses streamed into the hall at noon.

Screams erupted and cameras flashed as the men, escorted by marshals, ran around the building. Each runner stopped every now and then to hand over a rose to a thrilled young woman.

The Oblation Run is a yearly UP tradition organized by the APO. Naked fraternity members run around Palma Hall, carrying streamers or placards, bannering particular issues of the day.

'Merry X-Mass???'

This year, the fraternity's rallying cry was: "Merry X-Mass???"

Big question marks put doubt on a merry Christmas this year, especially for members of the UP community who face the threat of a P65-million budget cut, said UP APO auxiliary chancellor Allan Espinelli.

"This budget cut is a direct attack on our universal right to education. It will only result in fee increases and impositions, lower salaries of faculty and staff, problems on construction and maintenance of buildings, which in turn will lead to low quality and high paying education," the fraternity said in a statement.

Espinelli said the APO was fighting for a bigger state subsidy for the education sector and the payment of back cost-of-living allowances for UP employees and faculty members.

Started as prank

This year's run deviated from tradition when the streakers also graced Quezon Hall, upon the request of UP president Emerlinda Roman, according to APO members.

It started as a prank in 1977 when five members ran on campus with only masks to promote the fraternity-sponsored play "Hubad na Bayani" (Naked Hero), a political satire on Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorial rule.

Avenue of protest

Since then, the run has become a highly anticipated event, attracting hundreds of students and visitors every year.

In 2000, the naked runners called for the resignation of then President Joseph Estrada.

The Oblation Run has also become an avenue of protest for such issues as fraternity violence, illegal drugs and acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

'Orphaned' moms set up center for healing

From page A1

Ina (Inang Naulila sa Anak) Foundation co-founded by Gina de Venecia and Ali Sotto, whose son, actor Mico Sotto, died after he fell from the balcony of his condominium two years ago.

Gina said she did not expect to recover from the pain streaming from KC's death.

"You just learn to live with it. But the pain is always there, in the heart," she said.

"[The pain of losing my daughter is] enough to make you insane. The pain will never go away and the mother wishes she were dead," she said.

Inspiration

Gina said she decided it best to turn her grief into something positive "like using [departed] children as inspirations to help other mothers who also lost their children."

"It's only when you experience deep pain that you (acquire) the compassion to serve those who are also in deep pain," she told reporters here during a recent visit.

The Ina Foundation has gathered a core group of 15 mothers who have lost their children. They will be trained by professional counselors to enable them to help others "process" their grief and hopefully, lessen the pain.

"We experienced grief [so] we are capable of helping others. Instead of drowning in sorrow and grief, we will go out of our little world and will try to help others," she said.

Matriarchal society

She wanted to help mothers with insufficient financial resources to seek counseling from professionals.

The Philippines, De Venecia said, is a matriarchal society and if mothers become dysfunctional because of grief, "how can the family function?"

Aside from their pain, mothers of poor families suffer further if they are also the breadwinners.

"It's not true that mothers who belong to poor families do not grieve as much. They do, and they need the same emotional and psychological help as every mother who lost a child does," she said.

Gina said the Ina Healing Center, designed by architect Dan Lichauco, ("pro bono," she said) would rise on a 750-square meter lot of the Department of Social Welfare and Development compound (DSWD) near the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City.

Pillow room, butterflies

Like the Haven, a home for women put up in different provinces by the Congressional Spouses Foundation which Gina heads, the center will be managed by the DSWD.

It will have a "pillow room" where mothers can cry, a prayer room, a library and a butterfly aviary with a walk path "where they can meditate."

Only in RP: Priest-less dawn Masses in remote areas

From page A1

nine-day dawn Masses or "simbang gabi."

There are only around 7,400 diocesan and religious priests nationwide. The figure translates to a glaring ratio of one priest for every 15,000 faithful.

Unknown to many, Filipinos in far-flung barrios celebrated the early morning Church ritual preceding the birth of Jesus Christ even without priests.

The practice, called "Christmas Liturgies in the Absence of a Priest," was introduced by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) five years ago.

Fr. Anscar Chupungco, executive director of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Liturgy, said it was the prelates' way of reaching out to Catholics who could hardly be accommodated for lack of clerics.

Common in Mindanao

"The practice is unique in the Philippines," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Chupungco said such form of liturgy was common in Mindanao and other remote places where access to the nearest church was nothing short of a miracle.

It's not encouraged in places like Metro Manila where one can see a chapel practically on every corner, he said.

Christmas liturgies are related to the practice among Basic Ecclesiastical Communities (BECs) of holding Sunday services led by lay ministers as a substitute for priests.

BECs, a community of Catholics represented by a chapel, were formed mainly to help the hierarchy extend its pastoral mission to people living in far-off places.

Response to need of times

In the diocese of Tagum, priests ride motorcycles to perform common Catholic rituals like Masses and baptisms in BECs located in the mountainous regions.

Simbang Gabi originated in Mexico, the Philippines' trading partner during the Spanish colonial era, prompted by a need to respond to the temper of the times.

Seeing churches could not hold the multitudes that crammed pre-Christmas dawn services, Fray Diego de Soria, prior of Mexico's convent of San Agustin Acolman, requested the Vatican in 1587 for authorization to hold Masses outdoors.

Pope Sixtus V later decreed that these pre-dawn rites before Christmas in Mexico also be extended to the Philippines, Asia's only Roman Catholic country, beginning every Dec. 16. This was in keeping with the nine-day traditional festivals of Filipinos while at the same time allowing farmers a chance to hear Mass before heading out to the fields at sunrise.

Church bells summon the faithful to the early morning ritual. In some rural areas, brass bands roam the streets and in others priests knock on doors of every home.

Rites same as regular Masses

The "priestless" Christmas liturgy is no different from regular dawn Masses, according to Chupungco. There are the introductory rites, Liturgy of the Word composed of readings, responsorial psalms and Gospel acclamations, from Dec. 16 to 24.

The guidelines are contained in the Supplements to the Roman Sacramentary for the Dioceses of the Philippines.

The lay minister either reads a homily prepared by the parish priest in charge of the community or, when permitted, gives his own reflections on the Gospel.

Hosts, pre-consecrated to become Christ's body based on Catholic belief, are given out during communion.

On the last Mass shortly before Christmas, the minister presents an image of the Infant Jesus before the gathering for individual veneration.

RP seeks $70M more from Seoul for PNR rehab

From page A1

ty, citing the $2 billion worth of assistance and private investments made during Roh's visit.

"This is a major contribution to one of our 10-point agenda, which is the decongestion of Metro Manila," Ms Arroyo said during the unveiling of the South Korean-funded Northrail-Southrail project at the PNR central railway station.

Thanks RP

For his part, Roh thanked Ms Arroyo for the Philippine role in defending what is now South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, in which 7,000 Filipino soldiers died. He said South Korean businesses would continue to invest in the Philippines "to reinforce bonds made stronger through the years."

The Korean Eximbank loan for the road and dredging projects carries an interest rate of 1.5 percent a year. It will mature in 30 years.

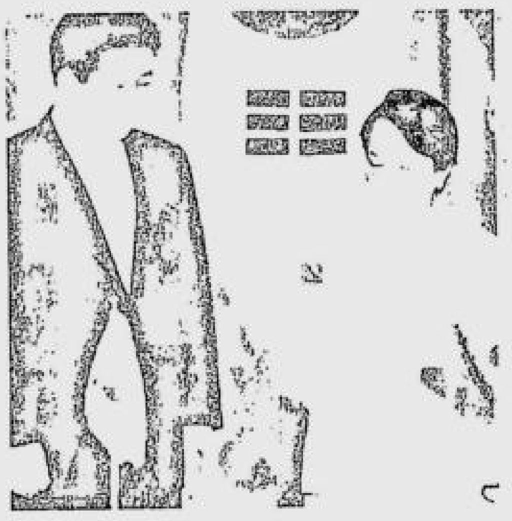
"I'm well aware of the importance of the GSO road as a transhighway connecting Metro Manila to other provinces," Dong said.

The road has been unable to function well because of the floods that have been hitting it since the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo that brought with it heavy lahar flow, according to the Korean Eximbank chair.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the project would help decongest Metro Manila because it would support infrastructure development in the Clark and Subic Economic Zones.

Alabang-Calamba line

He also noted that the dredging of the Porac-Gumain River in particular would help stop flooding in several Central Luzon provinces. The project is scheduled to begin in 2006 and would be implemented for four years.



TWO PRESIDENTS: President Arroyo and Roh Moo Hun of South Korea talk shop in Malacanang while waiting to sign the memorandum of understanding between their respective foreign affairs ministers on Thursday. Roh is here on a three-day state visit.

PNR General Manager Jose Ma. Sarasola II said the railway would like to take advantage of similar favorable terms from Korea's lenders to improve the PNR's 30-km line from Alabang to Calamba.

PNR's south line has become prone to accidents because of poor maintenance. Thousands of squatters live along the tracks.

PNR, once a pillar

Once a pillar of the country's land transport network, PNR is now deep in debt and relies purely on government subsidies to stay afloat. The agency is now striving to cut its losses and turn operations around, Sarasola said.

The rehabilitation of the first phase, covering the 32-km South Manila line from Samson Road in Caloocan to Alabang, will start in February.

Sarasola said the rehabilitation of the Caloocan-Alabang PNR line would take about 18 months to complete. By late 2006, the agency will start improving the second phase.

The first phase will be financed with a $50-million loan from the Republic of Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund and its Eximbank.

"We will try to secure another $70-million loan from South Korea for the second phase of the south line rehab," said Sarasola. The loan will include the purchase of 21 diesel-fueled, brand-new rolling stocks.

South Korea's institutional lenders, according to the PNR chief, have immediately acted on the loan applications.

Fencing off stations

Part of the rehabilitation of the PNR's south line includes the fencing off of station premises, and improvement of signaling and communications facilities.

Sarasola said the rehabilitation of the south line would not only reduce accidents but also speed up travel time along the tracks.

Once the upgrade of the first phase is completed, the South Manila line will have the capacity to carry roughly 187,000 passengers a day using 21 new diesel engines to be acquired under the project. It will have 16 improved stations.

Korea's development fund will provide a $35-million loan while its Eximbank will set aside $15.42 million for the foreign component of the project financing.

The government will provide the local component, equivalent to $14.26 million, for the right of way and some infrastructure for the railway line.

Integration

Sarasola said the first phase of the project would also cover improvement of the tracks, double-tracking of the Sucat to Alabang line, and upgrading of stations, depots and maintenance equipment.

Eventually, the rehabilitated South Manila railway will be interconnected to the Northrail, the LRT lines and MRT 3 as part of the integration of Manila's railway system.

With a report from Reuters

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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UP freshman wins in Intel science fair

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AT 17 YEARS OLD, THIS CIVIL ENgineering freshman at the University of the Philippines, Diliman already has an ambitious dream: to someday cure the world's pains.

And Joey Mangadlao may end up doing just that. He has, after all, just discovered a powerful antimicrobial substance in puffer fish (*butete*), a poisonous fish common in Philippine waters.

For his work, Mangadlao received the Third Grand Award in the microbiology category of the 2005 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Isef) held in Phoenix, Arizona last May, the world's most prestigious competition for secondary school students. The award came with a $1,000 cash prize.

His discovery, completed in the summer of 2004, was adjudged one of the best among 1,447 entries.

"What I did was make something useful out of something useless," Mangadlao told reporters in a press briefing of the 9th Intel Philippine Science Fair in Makati City yesterday.

Mangadlao was a junior student at the Agusan del Sur National High School when he went to an island in Ragay Gulf in Camarines Sur to study the puffer fish accidentally caught by fishermen in the area. He was intent on proving his hypothesis that the poisonous fish may yield a substance with antibiotic properties.

"There is literature that the fish contains Tetrodotoxin. In Canada, a painkiller containing tetrodotoxin is commercially sold ... it is 3,000 times more powerful than morphine," said Mangadlao.

All his hard work eventually paid off. "When I experimented on the skin, liver, gonads, and intestines of the puffer fish, I found that it contained the substance [Tetrodotoxin]," he said.

He entered his work in the Intel Philippine Science Fair and emerged as one of the winners, qualifying him for the international tilt.

Mangadlao said he intends to go on with his research to determine how the Tetrodotoxin found in puffer fish could be turned into an antibiotic.

MANGADLAO

Pasig's 'White House' inaugurated today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING the White House up close? Go to Pasig City.

On the spot where the old four-story Pasig City Hall used to stand is a renovated eight-story building, the facade of which looks similar to the present home of US President George Bush.

"We patterned the City Hall after the White House. We copied even the smallest details, like the wall carvings and the shapes of the balusters," Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio said.

The city government spent more than P480 million for the renovation of the building in Barangay Malinao, which took more than a year to finish. It will be inaugurated this morning.

The overall look is elegant, but motorists will have to endure heavy traffic on the narrow Caruncho Avenue, the main road leading to the City Hall, before seeing it.

"We saved some money because we no longer paid for a new design," Eusebio said.

He himself had long been fascinated by the White House, which was designed by Irish-born architect James Hoban in 1790.

The eight-floor City Hall is a smaller copy of the White House though.

The 55,000-sq m total floor area of the original is bigger than the almost 30,000-sq m total floor area on which the replica stands.

But city engineers, architects and private consultants still managed to use their ingenuity in designing what is found inside.

Built on top of the old building, the renovated City Hall is equipped with two elevators.

There are toilets on every floor which would rival those found in upscale malls. The urinals, for instance, are equipped with sensors and flush automatically after use. There are caretakers manning the entrance of the toilets.

Every floor has a spacious lobby, which seems to be as wide as an ordinary basketball court, with a round information desk at the center.

The City Council also has its own 700-sq m session hall on the 7th floor, with an elevated seating area for spectators. There are tables with built-in microphones for every councilor.

FILIPINOS who want to see the White House need not go to Washington, DC anymore. The newly-renovated Pasig City Hall, a smaller replica of the famous landmark in the US, will be opened to the public today. ERIK ARAZAS

Syndicates making fake US coins, too

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SYNDICATES ENGAGED IN THE manufacture of fake US dollar bills have also ventured into the production of fake silver dollar coins.

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday expressed alarm over the proliferation of fake coins in the market, following the recent arrest of two syndicate members who victimized customers of a money changing shop.

NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division (Isod) Chief Allan Contado said 500 fake silver dollar coins were seized from suspects Hakim Banto and Jamil Sultan, both of Quiapo, Manila, in an entrapment last week.

"The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) representatives said the coins were really well-made," Contado said.

"Syndicate members tricked victims, mostly foreigners, into believing that they could exchange the coins at the US Treasury Department for $1,485 each," the Isod chief said.

There are six kinds of US silver dollars: Flowing Hair, Draped Bust, Seated Liberty, Trade, Morgan and Peace. The antique silver coins, which were minted from 1794 to 1935, can go for as little as $100 to as much as $50,000 depending on the type and condition.

According to the NBI, suspect Banto approached a foreigner at a money changing shop in Ermita, Manila last Dec. 2 and offered him different kinds of coins at P300 each.

METROBRIEFS

Guard kills trespasser

STUDENTS of a Chinese school in Pasay City were sent home yesterday after a security guard shot dead a man who tried to force his way into the school. The victim, who has yet to be identified, died after he was shot four times by Gerardo Buhat, 38, a guard at the Ching Chaytho Memorial Pre-School, Pasay Chung Hua on Tupaz Street. Buhat told the INQUIRER that he had no choice but to shoot the victim after the latter attacked him. "I asked what was his business in the school, but he did not answer me," said Buhat at the Pasay police headquarters. The guard claimed that the man tried to enter the school gates at 10:25 a.m. yesterday but could not show a fetcher's I.D. Instead of leaving, however, the man attacked him and tried to take his gun. P03 Miguel Manginga said the victim suffered gunshot wounds in the chest, stomach and abdomen. Buhat will be charged with homicide before the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office, Manginga added.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Suspected swindler arrested

THE MANILA Police District (MPD) yesterday arrested a 37-year-old woman who allegedly duped over 100 people of around P5 million in cash and jewelry. The suspect was identified as Dolores Encabo Barrion, alias Cynthia Gabio, of Cubao, Quezon City. MPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said more than 100 people have come forward to file a complaint against Barrion. Several warrants have also been issued for her arrest by courts in San Mateo, Marikina, Batangas, Montalban and Quezon City, he added. Police said the suspect managed to convince her victims to invest in her ventures by dropping the names of well-known politicians like Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

Tina G. Santos

City youth to keep Divisoria clean

PARA MAALIWALAS ANG PAG SHOPPING NINYO ! O 'DI BA ?

WITH thousands of people descending on Divisoria this holiday season, the Manila Police have tasked 900 of the city's out-of-school youth (OSY) to keep the shopping district clean. Everyday, 50 OSY will sweep the streets and pick up the garbage in the area. For this, they will get a daily allowance of P231 each. The young people are members of the Out-of-School Youth Services Toward Economic Recovery (Oyster), a beautification program under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways. For this particular project, however, the 900 Oyster members in the city will be under the charge of the Manila Police District (MPD). MPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the project will provide Oyster members with additional income during the holiday season. Aside from sweeping and keeping streets in Divisoria free of garbage, the OSY will also carry out beautification projects such as the repainting of sidewalks.

Tina G. Santos

Killed over a microphone

A MAN killed his brother-in-law following an argument over a microphone in Caloocan City on Monday night. William Bautista Socorro, a seaman and resident of Maypajo St., Barangay 27, was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Central University Hospital due to stab wounds in the chest and arm. The police have launched a hunt for the suspect, Socorro's brother-in-law, Crispin Geronimo, who fled after the incident. PO3 Alberto Eustaquio of the city police said the incident happened at a party thrown by Socorro who had just arrived from abroad. "The victim was singing when his brother-in-law pulled the plug of the microphone," the policeman said. Embarrassed in front of his friends, Socorro argued with the suspect who took out a knife and stabbed him. "This is the saddest Christmas for all of us and painful for the children who would surely be affected by the turn of events," a member of the family told the INQUIRER.

Nancy C. Carvajal

'Teacher Power' book launch today

THE BOOK "Teacher Power" by Eusebio S. San Diego, values education and alternative learning system supervisor, will be launched today. Former senator Jovito R. Salonga will be the guest of honor and speaker at the event which will be held at the Century Club, Quezon Memorial Circle, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City at 5 p.m.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
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As of September 30, 2005

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash items	21,880.00
Due from Other Banks	3,987,921.18
Trading Account Securities (Net)	66,903,795.89
Equity Investments (Net)	1,352,832.39
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures (Net)	84,036,102.69
Other Assets (Net)	
b. Others	198,651,844.02
TOTAL ASSETS	**354,954,376.17**
LIABILITIES	
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	39,779.81
Other Liabilities	11,946,287.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**11,986,067.14**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	323,306,400.00
Surplus	19,661,909.03
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**342,968,309.03**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**354,954,376.17**

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2005

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Items held for safekeeping/Custodianship Government Bonds & Other Securities Held for Custodianship	43,322,579.35
Private Securities/Commercial Papers Held for Custodianship	25,000,000.00

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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We, Miguel C. Andaya and Roy B. Lacsamana of the above-mentioned corporation do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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Managing Director-Finance & Operation
(Signature over Printed Name)

Roy B. Lacsamana
President & COO
(Signature over Printed Name)

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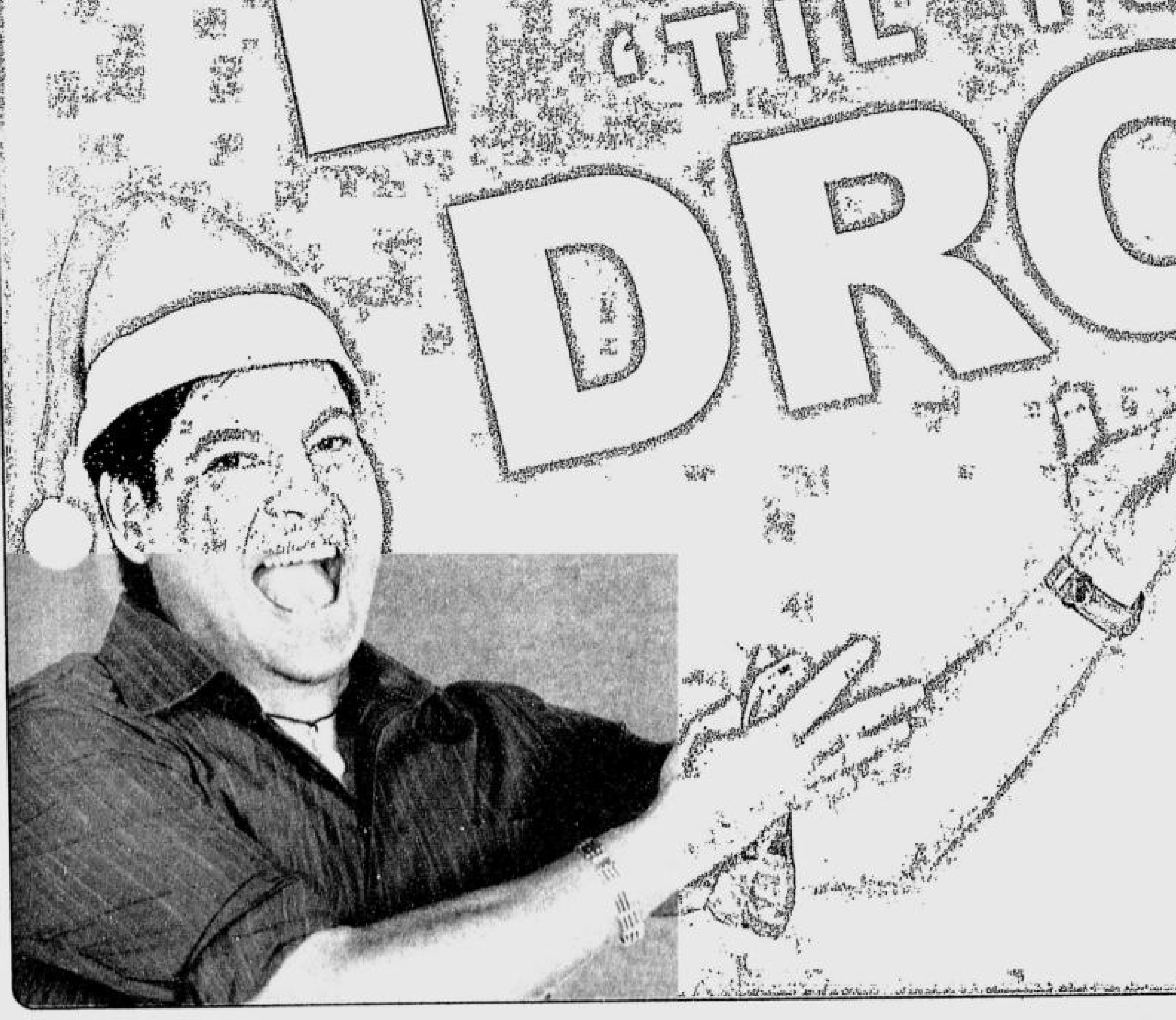

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Arcilla, Tierro enter s'finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOHNNY ARCILLA BUCKED A SPRAINED ANKLE to ward off Rolando Ruel Jr.'s spirited charge even as PJ Tierro made short work of veteran Adelo Abadia to reach the men's singles semifinals of the PCA Open tennis championships yesterday at the PCA shell courts.

Defending champion Chung Hee Seok also made it to the semis at the expense of his younger brother Chung Hee Sung, 6-2, 6-1, and will next meet Arcilla, the former RP No. 1 who was easily the hero of the day.

Arcilla sprained his right ankle in the first set, but the 25-year-old former PCA champ, went on with the match while dragging his heavily bandaged foot for a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory.

Tierro, the 20-year-old RP No. 1, used his youth, speed and talent to demolish the 30-year-old Abadia, 6-1, 6-1, in a match that lasted less than 40 minutes.

Seeded second here, Tierro will next take on third seed Korean Seo Yung Bum, who booted out Alexander Lazaro, 6-2, 6-1.

"It was very hard to move it," said Arcilla in Filipino, who tripped after chasing a forehand from deep corner. "I guess my mind just took over from my hurting ankle."

Arcilla, who won this Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar-presented tournament in 2001, used every trick he knew like throwing moon balls to slow down the pace and prevent Ruel from taking good angles of his shots.

Arcilla endured four deuces in the 10th game before wrapping up the first set.

Fourth seed Bambi Zoleta downed Trudy Amoranto, 6-2, 6-4, to lead the semifinalists in the distaff side. Also advancing were Arra Micayabas, who bested Alyssa Alabay, 6-1, 6-3, and Michelle Pang who beat Aileen Rogan Tuesday, 6-3, 6-3.

ARCILLA bucks sprained ankle to beat Ruel.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SMB eyes No. 5

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Coca-Cola
7:25 p.m.—SMB vs Barangay Ginebra

SAN MIGUEL BEER WILL TOUGH it out with Kwan Johnson when they shoot for a fifth straight victory today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference against Barangay Ginebra at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Kevin Freeman, who played for the now defunct Pop Cola and Tanduay in the late '90s, was hired as a standby replacement in case something goes wrong for the Beermen in the closing stretch of the classification phase.

But coach Jong Uichico and the Beermen are not inclined to change horses going into the final bend of the race.

"He's (Johnson) been trying to fit into the system and I'm satisfied with him," said Uichico after beating coach Ryan Gregorio and the Purefoods Chunkee Giants for the Beermen's fourth consecutive win and fifth overall in 13 games.

The SMB-Ginebra clash is set at 7:25 p.m. after the 4:40 p.m. contest between Air21 and Coca-Cola.

The Beermen are looking to post the longest win streak in the conference. The Giants and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals won four straight in the early going but got clipped after.

"We're gunning for the highest place possible," said Uichico, who is seeking to land anywhere from fifth to seventh and avoid the survival clash awaiting teams that will end up ninth and 10th after 16 elimination-round games.

The Beermen are still dead last at 5-8 record and trail Coca-Cola (6-7), Alaska (6-7) and Sta. Lucia (6-9).

June Navarro

'Dont taint RP win with bills'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAYING UNPAID BILLS SHOULD NOT TAINT the "luster of RP's overall supremacy," the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee yesterday assured it will not renege on its responsibility to pay the P23 million incurred in Bacolod and Cebu, which hosted key events of the biennial meet.

Philsoc secretary general Steve Hontiveros yesterday told the INQUIRER Philsoc is fully aware of the unpaid hotel, catering and transportation bills in the two cities.

"We won't allow these bills to taint the luster of country's overall supremacy, but there should be a counter check to determine the real amount," said Hontiveros.

Hontiveros said Philsoc still has receivables from private sponsors but he's not sure whether these would be enough to pay the bills which is apart from the P74 million still unpaid from the Manila hosting.

The bowling chief said Philsoc might ask the help of President Arroyo or the House of Representatives to foot the bill. "I remember in 1991, Congress created a budget for the unpaid bill of the SEA Games."

"It's just a matter of how we go about it," added Hontiveros, who expressed surprise how the report came out in the INQUIRER on Thursday.

The INQUIRER reported that Basoc was still waiting for the remaining P15.6 million from Philsoc, while Cebusoc reminded Philsoc of its P7 million obligation.

Philsoc shouldered the hotel and plane fare of the SEAG Federation VIPs. The hotel and airfare of the delegates were also subsidized.

Meanwhile, Bacolod SEAG Organizing Committee chief Rep. Monico Puentevella assured that "everything will be settled over the weekend." He added that issues like these should not taint the success of the 23rd SEAG which the country won for the first time by amassing 113 golds, 86 silvers and 92 bronzes. Puentevella said he has made arrangements with the hotel, catering and bus owners in Bacolod.

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BMW 320i	Arctic	2005	P2,345,000	**P2,228,000**
BMW 320i	Titanium Silver	2005	P2,345,000	**P2,228,000**
BMW 330i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P4,075,000	**P3,870,000**
BMW 3 Series			Then	New
BMW 316i	Titanium Silver	2002	P1,795,000	P1,050,000
BMW 318i Exec.	Orient Blue	2004	P2,550,000	P1,750,000
BMW 318i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2004	P2,550,000	P1,750,000
BMW 325i M Sport (SMG)	Imola Red	2004	P3,600,000	P2,665,000
BMW 318i M Sport	Titanium Silver	2004	P2,950,000	P1,850,000
BMW 318i M Sport	Topaz Blue	2004	P2,950,000	P1,850,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P3,500,000	P2,200,000
BMW 325i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2004	P3,500,000	P2,200,000
BMW 1 Series			Then	New
BMW 116i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P1,795,000	P1,705,000
BMW 118i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P1,990,000	P1,890,000
BMW 120i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2005	P2,195,000	P2,085,000
BMW Z4			Then	New
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BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster	Sterling Grey	2003	P3,811,000	P2,800,000
BMW Z4 2.5i Roadster	Black Sapphire	2004	P3,811,000	P2,900,000
BMW 5 Series			Then	New
BMW 525i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P4,879,000	P4,460,000
BMW 525i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P4,879,000	P3,800,000
BMW 530d Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P5,089,000	P3,700,000
BMW 520i Limousine	Mystic Blue	2005	P4,070,000	P3,800,000
BMW 520i Exec.	Alpine White	2005	P4,070,000	P3,800,000
BMW X Series			Then	New
BMW X3 2.5i SAV	Alpine White	2005	P3,621,000	P3,309,000
BMW X3 2.5i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2004	P3,962,000	P3,000,000
BMW X3 2.5i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P3,962,000	P3,620,000
BMW X5 3.0d Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	P5,712,000	P5,100,000
BMW X5 3.0i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	P5,712,000	P4,700,000
BMW X5 3.0d Lim. Ed.	Black Sapphire	2005	P5,512,000	P5,236,000
BMW 7 Series			Then	New
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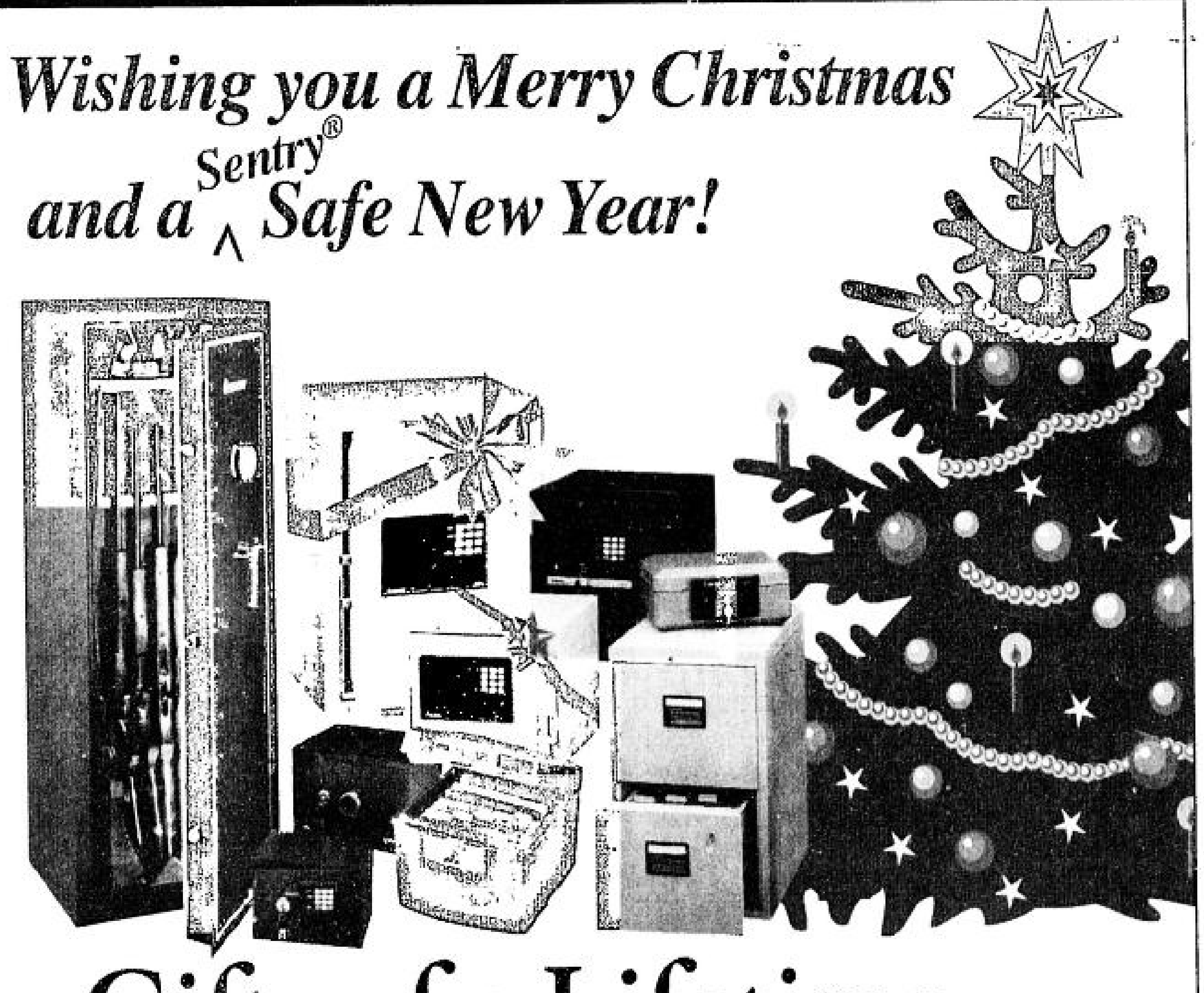

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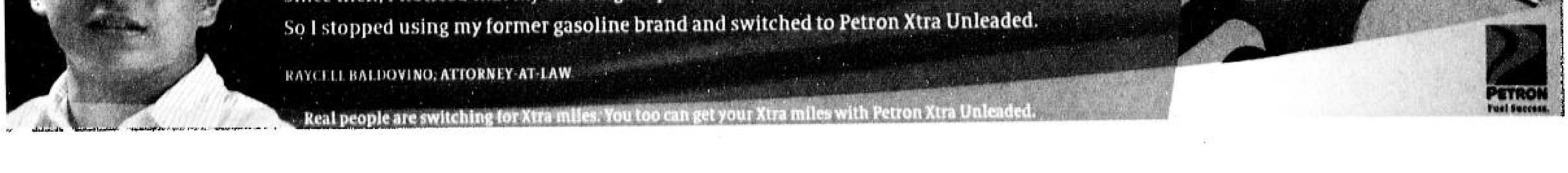

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Thais open track bid with 6 gold medals

POLIO victim Cheryll Anta prepares to hurl the shot put. RYAN LIM

DEFENDING CHAMPION THAILAND CAPtured six gold medals at the start of track and field action in the third Asean Para Games at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Suthon Butkrim won the gold in men's discus throw in the double amputee class with 31.12 meters to start the Thais' juggernaut in the afternoon. He prevailed over countryman Satian Thongdee and RP's Ruben Canoza, who threw 25.34 and 19.48 for silver and bronze, respectively.

Wanne Ladee of Thailand topped the women's shot put for double-arm amputees with 6.54, beating Indonesia's Vironika Umardyani (6.35) and Vietnam's Ngo Thi Nhung (6.20).

Surang Khamsuk won the gold in the women's shot put for single amputees and Sayan Sriin in the men's 100 meters for single arm class.

Vietnam picked up three golds, one of them by Ho Pham Uyen Phuong in the 100m for the totally blind in 15.05 seconds, a new national record.

Myanmar had a gold courtesy of Aung Gyi in men's discus throw for single leg amputees while Malaysia also won one thanks to Genearal Lieh in men's 100m for athletes with partial sight.

The Philippines failed to land a gold.

Nguyen Van Thinh and Nguyen Thi Cao Nguyen delivered the two other gold medals for the Vietnamese in the morning while Wasun Junthimatom and Prawat Wathoram came through for the Thais.

Van Thin copped the men's discus gold with a throw of 25.55m. Thi Cao ruled the women's 500-meter by clocking 17 minutes and 59.36 seconds, beating RP bets Cherrylyn dela Cruz and Odessa Buenflor.

Putra Cuppers falter

THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED to flounder in the Putra Cup Thursday, assembling a second straight 219 total and fell farther back halfway through the 72-hole event at the Pun Hlaing Golf Club in Myanmar.

Jay Bayron sizzled with a three-under-par 69 but top gun Juvic Pagunsan failed to count and the 75 of Michael Bibat and Marvin Dumandan completed the team's three-over par output for a two-day haul of 438.

Pagunsan, fancied to dominate here after steering the Philippines to a runaway victory in the recent Southeast Asian Games, including the individual crown, skied to a 76.

Malaysia, with Ben Leong firing a five-under par 67, sustained its first-day romp with a second round 211 for a 12-under 420, 13 strokes over new pursuer Thailand, which fought back with a 213 for a 433.

Bayron's 69 also enabled him to seize third place in the individual race although he stood seven shots off Leong with a one-under 143.

The Malaysian ace, out to come up with a fine showing here after a forgettable stint in the SEAG, had an eight-under 136 for a five-shot lead over compatriot Mohd Sukree, who had 141 after a 71.

Pagunsan is expected to come out strong today to salvage whatever hopes is left for the Filipinos who join the event oozing with confidence following its SEAG romp.

Harbour, G. Goose win

HARBOUR CENTRE NEARLY BLEW A 20-point lead before pulling itself together in the final quarter to escape with an 82-80 victory over Far Eastern Insurance yesterday, snapping a five-game losing skid in the PBL Heroes Cup at the Letran Gym.

The Port Masters leaned on the heroics of Joseph Yeo and LA Tenorio who sealed their third win against eight defeats and gave coach Jorge Gallent his first victory after taking a 63-69 loss to Montaña Jewels in his debut. FEI fell to 2-6.

In the second game, Granny Goose Tortillos trounced Toyota Otis, 64-56, to take solo second place with a 5-3 record.

JR Quinahan led the team's balanced attack as the Snack Masters firmed up their chances of grabbing an outright semis berth. The Knights fell to 2-6.

Tenorio and Rob Reyes touched off the Port Masters' searing first half which ended with Harbour holding a 52-32 advantage. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

The scores:

First game

HARBOUR 82—Tenorio 19, Reyes 17, Yeo 15, Gaco 9, Luanzon 9, Arellano 5, Alonzo 4, Menor 4, Vicente 0, Seguindel 0.

FEI 80—Sierra 14, Yee 14, Marquez 10, Villamin 10, Guerrero 9, Gamboa 6, Latoreno 6, Bravo 5, Estrada 2, Gatumbato 2, Diaz 2, Bonus 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 52-32, 69-56, 82-80.

Eala shouldn't treat Yeo lightly

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PHILIPpine Basketball Association, composed of the country's top corporations, does not need the services of ill-tempered players who are not worth emulating by PBA fans. But how will PBA Commissioner Noli Eala treat Joseph Yeo if the 6-foot-1 La Salle player applies for the coming PBA draft? Will Eala put more teeth or merely put on kid gloves against Yeo, who touched off a near riot during the PBA-sanctioned La Salle-Ateneo "Dream Game" last Dec. 8 at the Big Dome?

"His actions will have a big bearing on his eligibility in the draft," said Eala after the game. "There's a big question mark on him after today, and his application will certainly be scrutinized."

I was not there when it happened, but Tempo's Tito Talao, who was there, wrote: "Virtually unprovoked, Yeo slammed a stiff forearm at the face of an unsuspecting (Rico) Villanueva, bloodying (the mouth and nose of) the former Blue Eagle star, halting play for more than 30 minutes early in the second half, triggering debris-throwing among the fans, and nearly causing the cancelation of the project, proceeds of which would benefit two non-government organizations." Vintage's Bobong Velez promoted the La Salle-Ateneo "Dream Game."

Yeo reportedly even flashed the dirty finger sign at Ateneo supporters and was seen ridiculing Villanueva with facial expressions as he was led out of the playing court.

Later, JJ Atayde and Bong de Ocampo, project directors of the game, said Yeo "felt very sorry" but maintained he was provoked by Villanueva in instigating the scuffle. The La Salle cager said that Villanueva's wayward elbow as they battled for a rebound caused him to retaliate. "*Buong laro sinasaktan na kami ni* Villanueva (Villanueva was hurting us throughout the game). I wasn't able to control myself. I'm sorry," said Yeo.

Still, the Ateneo camp stressed that although there were rough physical contacts in the game, none were meant to hurt intentionally. Ricky Palou, former PBA technical committee chief and now Ateneo representative to the UAAP board, said, "We didn't come to the game to get hurt. We came to play." Ateneo beat arch rival La Salle, 88-85, behind Villanueva's three-point shot at the buzzer.

Eala said three things could be imposed should Yeo pursue his draft application. One, Yeo could be disqualified from the draft outright; two, he could be ruled ineligible indefinitely; and three, Yeo could be allowed to be drafted and then get suspended.

Villanueva, who is now one of Red Bull's top players, agreed with Eala's decisions, saying Yeo should be punished once the Green Archer applies for next year's PBA rookie draft.

I concur. Cage thugs in uniform have no place in the league. This unsportsmanlike behavior is something the public don't want to see.

SPORTSWATCH

Orig tops Espiritu Cup

REAL Bank's Ruben Orig fired a net 71 then nipped None Rivera in the countback to capture the Class A crown in the first Ambassador Edgardo B. Espiritu Golf Cup at the Manila Golf Club recently. Rivera, who also had a 71, settled for second in the event held in honor of the former finance secretary and current Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland. Claude Bringas fired a 74 to rule Class B over Gie Ejercito and Lewis Yu. Eric Livelo of Manila Bank won the Class C diadem also via countback over Paul Davis.

RP fighters yield

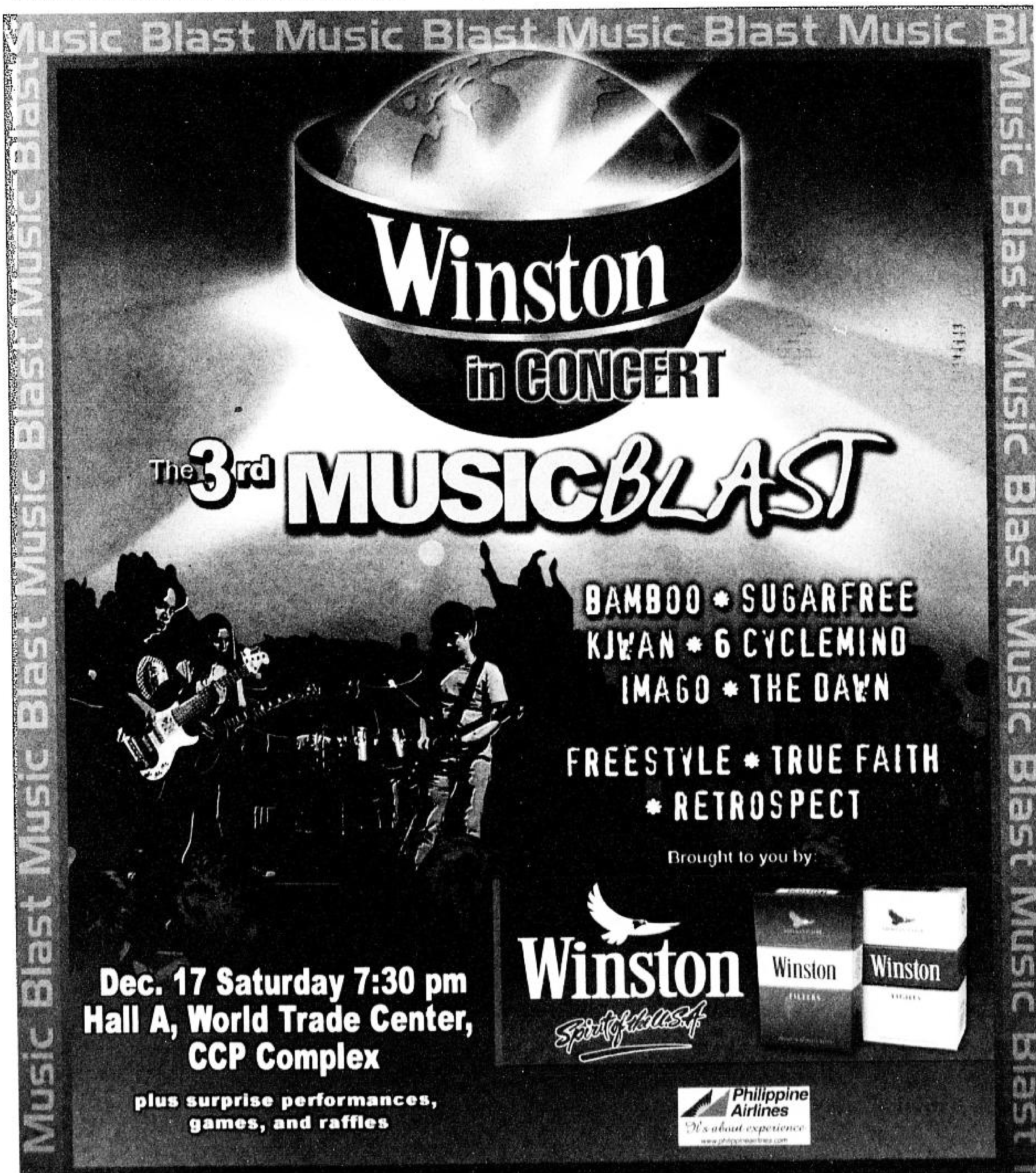
FILIPINO fighters bowed to their Chinese foes during the recent "URCC 7-The Art of War" at the Araneta Coliseum. He Peng (Team Art of War) stopped bantam Mark Sangiao with a flying kick in the face while heavyweight Christian Wong (Deftac Yam Yan) yielded to Ao Hai Ling by submission. Dai Shuang Hai beat Mike Banayad (AFC Philippines) by submission and Zhang Tie Quan beat Salvador Domasian (Elorde MMA Team Philippines) through referee stoppage. Caloy Badurla (Elorde MMA Team) became the new middleweight titlist after he bested Benjie Gloria.

Pasay 5-cocker starts

THE PASKO Sa Pasay 5-cock derby starts today with about 80 cockers taking part in the 2-cock elimination round at the Pasay City Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said the championship round will be staged on Sunday. The guaranteed prize is P1 million. Entry fee is P10,000. Those who will score two points in the elimination round will get a P10,000 bonus. For details, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Makati P3-M derby

SUBMISSION of entries for the Makati Coliseum's Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby will be from 2-9 p.m. today. Action resumes tomorrow with the third round eliminations. So far, 163 entries were registered in this super derby which stakes P3 million plus a brand-new Toyota Innova for the champions. More cockers and breeders committed their participation on Dec. 19 and 21. For particulars, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.



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Perez leads PSA awardees

PEREZ: Three golds

DIVER SHIELA MAE PEREZ AND eight others who helped Team Philippines win the overall title in the-23rd Southeast Asian Games head the major awardees to be feted by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) during its annual Awards Night.

Perez and fellow multiple gold medal winners Alex Pagulayan (billiards), Juvic Pagunsan (golf), Maristela Torres (track and field), Amaya Paz (archery), Benjamin Tolentino (rowing), John Baylon (judo), Miguel Molina (swimming) and Harry Tañamor (boxing) unanimously earned the nods of the sportswriters as recipients of major awards.

Five others—pro boxer Manny Pacquiao, golfer Jennifer Rosales, amateur cager Arwind Santos, pro cager Eric Menk and pro cyclist Warren Davadilla—are also in the roster which will be honored along with the others during the Awards Night on Jan. 14 at the Manila Pavilion.

High on the honor roll is Team Philippines, which was named a few days ago by the 100-member, 56-year-old association as Athlete of the Year in a tribute to its historic overall victory in the last SEA Games.

It was the first time since 1949 that a team became the recipient of the association's highest award.

PSA president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya said the Board made up of sports editors of leading broadsheets and tabloids will announce next week the recipients of major awards in horse racing and traditional boat racing, the runaway winner of the most outstanding NSA honor for delivering six gold medals.

Three Class A jockeys are presently locked in a close, interesting fight for the top award in horseracing, namely, many-time PSA jockey of the year honoree Patty Dilema, Jonathan Hernandez and Jessie B. Guce.

In a meeting the other night, the board also unanimously approved the giving of a special citation to San Miguel Corp. for bankrolling the training expenses of 13 national sports associations. The SMC-backed sports delivered 56 of the 113 gold medals by Team Philippines with wushu accounting for 11, the most by any NSA.

Cantor said the other personalities and entities who will be cited will also be announced next week.

"It's only fitting to cite all these gold medalists who did the country proud and the others who helped make 2005 a year to remember in local sports," Cantor said.

The 21-year-old Perez won three gold medals and was the unanimous choice to represent the athletes in accepting the Athlete of the Year award.

Hill sparks Magic victory

DWYANE Wade had 27 points in Miami's 100-83 triumph over Milwaukee. AP

NEW YORK—GRANT HILL MADE a key 3-pointer during a decisive run in his season debut for Orlando, and Dwight Howard had 23 points and 13 rebounds to help the Magic defeat the struggling New York Knicks 105-90 Wednesday.

Hill missed Orlando's first 19 games following surgery for a sports hernia on Oct. 31. He started and scored seven points in 22 minutes, and was on the floor late in the second quarter when the Magic took control for good.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 18 points and Pat Garrity added a season-high 17, and the pair helped Orlando end New York's final comeback hopes with an impressive display of 3-point shooting.

Eddy Curry scored 23 points for the Knicks, who have lost four straight. Quentin Richardson added a season-high 16.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Chicago 105, Toronto 94; Philadelphia 106, Atlanta 101; Boston 85, Indiana 71; Detroit 109, Sacramento 98; Charlotte 91, New Jersey 83; Miami 100, Milwaukee 83; LA Lakers 94, Memphis 79; Dallas 102, Phoenix 96; New Orleans 102, LA Clippers 89; Utah 82, Portland 77; Houston 111, Golden State 105, OT

NBA ON SOLAR: 11:30 a.m.—Houston vs Seattle (Solar Sports)

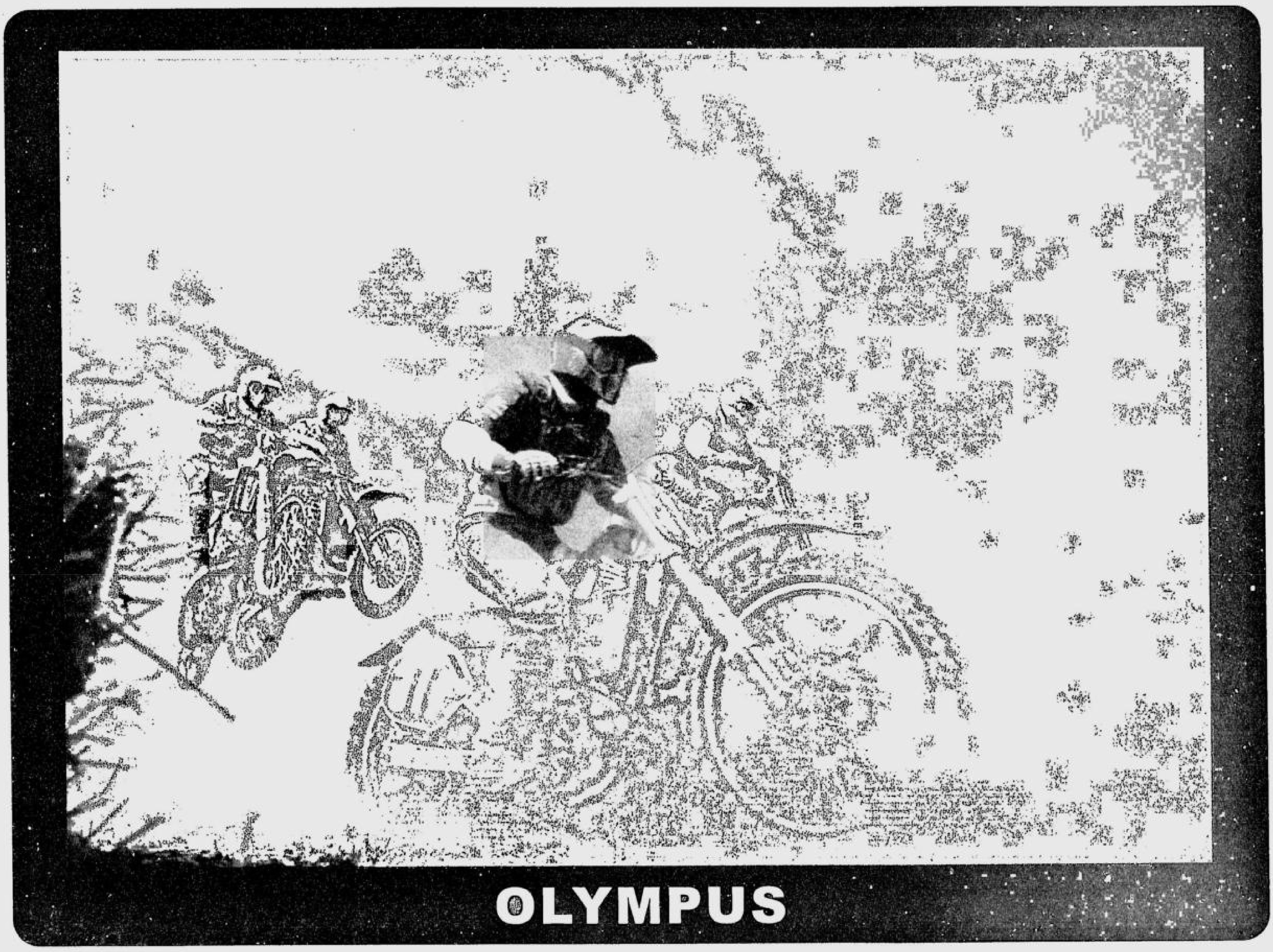
Gesta, Porras in Piñol b-day card

CEBU'S MERCITO "GUERRERO" GESTA is all primed up to impress Mindanao fans in a 10-round bout against veteran slugger Leo Escobido today at the Kidapawan City Gymnasium, saying this will be his birthday gift to his new promoter, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Glenn Porras will shoot for the Philippine Boxing Federation bantam title against Baguio's Edgar Gabejan.

"My new promoter will be watching every punch I throw and every step I make so I better deliver," said the 18-year-old Gesta, a former Muay Thai fighter with a 10-0-1 record.

Today's card will serve as the initial salvo of the newly created program "Manny Pacquiao Presents." *Salven Lagumbay*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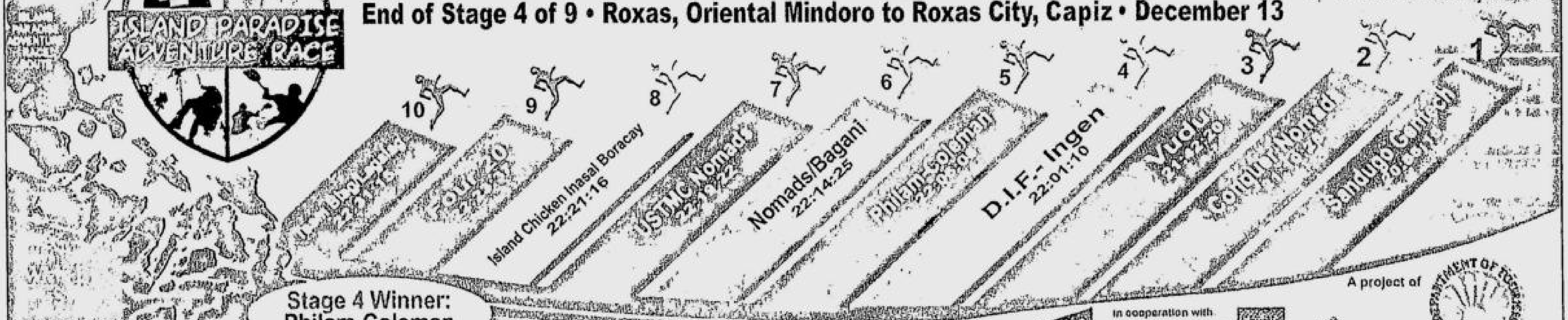
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5 Philam-Coleman
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Stage 4 Winner: Philam-Coleman

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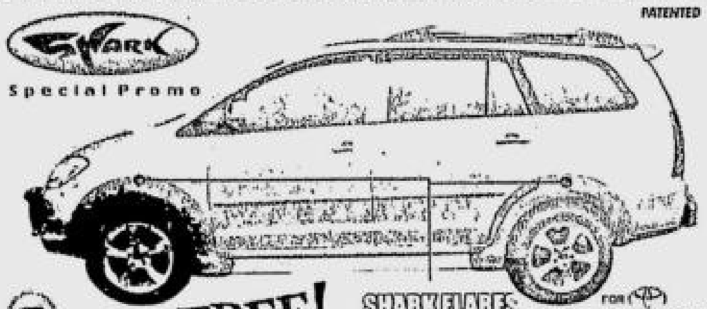

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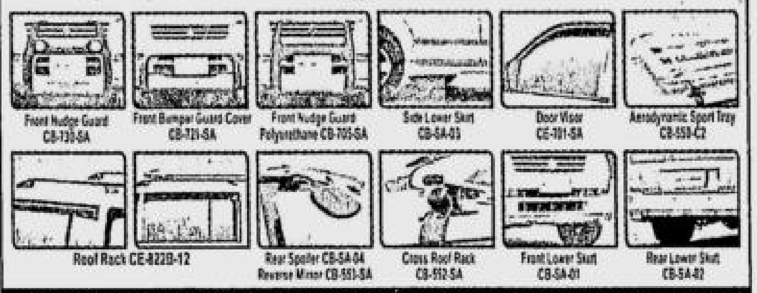

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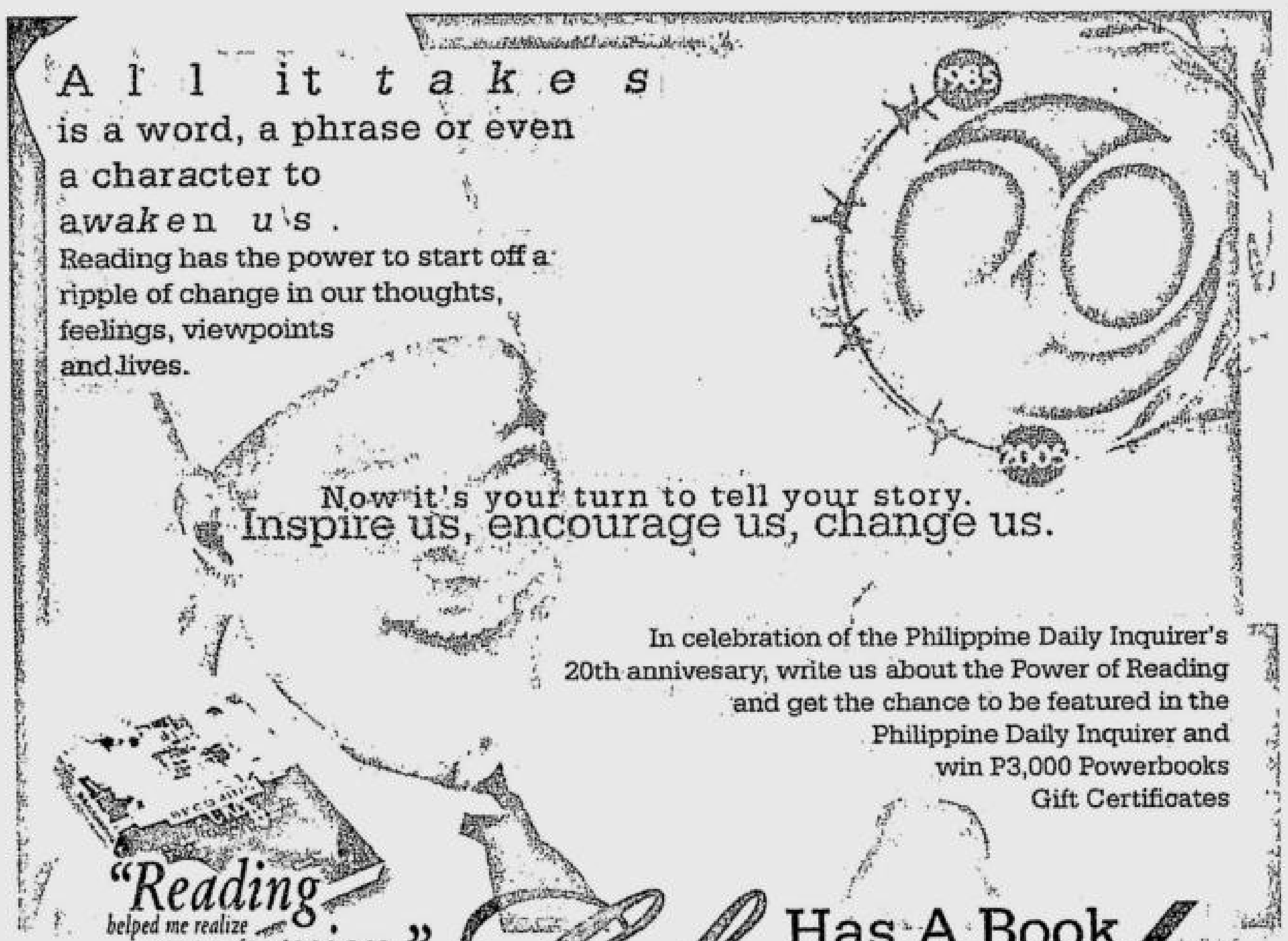

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
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KING KONG
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CHICKEN LITTLE
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THE FOG
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...MAXIMO OLIVEROS
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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HEATH Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as the cowboy-lovers in Ang Lee's "Brokeback," which got seven nods: Testing Oscar waters for gay-themed films.

PUBLICITY PHOTO

'Brokeback Mountain' tops Golden Globe nominations

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent
Exclusive photos
by Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"BROKEBACK Mountain," Ang Lee's lyrical drama about two cowboys who fall in love, topped the Golden Globe Awards nominations announced early Tuesday morning at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

"Brokeback" earned seven nominations from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), the group of international journalists that votes on the Golden Globe Awards.

The film earned nods for Best Motion Picture—Drama, Best Director, Best Actor in a Motion Picture—Drama, Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, Best Screenplay—Motion Picture, Best Original Score and Best Original Song—Motion Picture.

George Clooney matched actor Jamie Foxx's rare achievement of three Golden Globe nominations last year. The actor-director was cited in the Motion Picture categories of Best Director and Best Screenplay (with Grant Heslov) for "Good Night, and Good Luck" and Best Supporting Actor for "Syriana," which he also co-produced.

"Good Night," Clooney's black-and-white account of Edward R. Murrow's stand against Sen. Joseph McCarthy and the latter's Communist witch hunt, is also in the race for Best Motion Picture—Drama honors.

The writer is a member of the HFPA. He writes about voting for the Golden Globes on page A2-2.

Among Chinese talents, aside from Lee, Ziyi Zhang got her first Golden Globe nomination, Best Actress in a Motion Picture—Drama, for "Memoirs of a Geisha." Two films from China, "Kung Fu Hustle" and "Master of the Crimson Armor" are in the the Best Foreign Language Film race.

Woody Allen's "Match Point," hailed by critics as his best in years, and the musical "The Producers" also got several nominations.

In the TV categories, "Desperate Housewives" hogged the Best Actress in a Television Series—Musical or Comedy nominations circle. Eva Longoria finally got nominated.

"Desperate" creator Marc Cherry issued this statement to INQUIRER Entertainment: "As always, we're truly honored for any recognition the show receives. But I am especially thrilled with Eva Longoria's nomination. It was well deserved and so overdue."

'BROKEBACK'/A2-2

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Casting my first Golden Globe nominations ballot—and taking it seriously, indeed

MARK Wahlberg: "Good evening," he said.

STEVE "The Virgin" Carell

KATRINA Wan, Fil-Am segment producer of E! News.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—I HAVE COME to love this awards nominations announcement at dawn.

Where else but in Hollywood can you find fully made-up ladies (exhibit no. 1—**Melissa Rivers**) in their deadly, expensive pointed shoes at the ungodly hour of 4 a.m.?

Tuesday morning's announcement of the Golden Globe Awards nominations at the newly-renovated Beverly Hilton kicked the awards season into higher gear. But before we got to this part, I cast my nominations ballot for the first time as a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA). It wasn't easy. I took my obligation very seriously. I spent almost two days agonizing over my final five choices in each category.

It was especially difficult narrowing down my Best Actor nominees' list. So many good actor performances this year, so few nomination slots. I'm sure my editor is still poring over them, still hoping to find the names of her men—Ralph Fiennes and Viggo Mortensen. Viggong-vigo *siya*, I'm afraid.

We watch movies year-round but come nomination time, we are bombarded with "for your consideration" screeners from the film companies. I am on a first-name basis already with our FedEx, UPS and DHL delivery guys. And our mailman? Someday I suspect he'll sue me for the back problems he developed as a result of the excessive mails that he delivers to me.

Don't we have a mailbox, you ask? I've already bought the biggest mailbox I could find at Home Depot—it could be the biggest in the planet. Some days though, that huge mailbox is still not big enough. Rudy, our mailman from El Salvador, sometimes has to drop the extra mail by our door. With that reassuring thud.

But I digress. Back to the ballroom where the women were divided into two camps—the made-up and the un-made-up. This line from a lady to another femme as we lined up for the breakfast of muffins, bagel and lox and eggs benedict said it all: "So tell me, how did you find time to apply all that makeup at this time of day?" I tried my best to suppress my cackling laughter as I reached for a bagel.

The recently spiffed up ballroom was sprinkled with Filipino-Americans. There was Lizza Flynn, publicity exec at Buena Vista International Television, one of many publicists in the room hoping that their films or TV shows would get mentioned during the live telecast. HBO's **Katrina Wan**, whom we last saw at the Toronto International Film Festival, was really working, with head phones and cell phones glued to her ears (she must have four ears).

And then there was **Sthanlee Mirador**, who works for a photo agency, ready to aim with his camera. No, that was not 'a typo in his name—only a Pinoy can come up with a fancy name like that.

Valerie de la Peña, also a publicist, later told me that she watched the nominations event at her office so she could spring to action right away in case her films got nominated. She made a wise move—she was able to supply me immediately with a statement from the morning's triumphant actor-director, **George Clooney** (*See bottom*).

Everyone was asked to keep quiet (and to turn off Blackberries and cell phones, please!) when the nominations were finally announced in two segments on national television. For a change, we all stayed silent, like we were in church, except when **Mark Wahlberg**, one of the stars tapped to read the names and titles, intentionally greeted his TV and ballroom audience with "Good evening." We all laughed.

Comedian and 40-something "virgin" **Steve Carrell**, who also announced some of the nominees, heard his name called among the Best Actor in a TV Series—Musical or Comedy contenders. He told me that he woke up at 3 a.m. to look that GQ-ish.

Kate Beckinsale looked like she was ready for a formal evening out. When I asked the actress how she managed to do it, she told me in her impeccable English accent, "I had a baby so this is nothing. I'm used to waking up at odd hours." For her, the highlight of the morning was hearing her "daughter's best friend's dad" being nominated. It was **Harry Gregson-Williams**, in the running for Best Original Score for Disney's film which just had a blockbuster opening: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe."

On our way out, there were the traditional glasses of Moet & Champagne, ready for sipping and toasting. But before I could reach for a glass, my Blackberry buzzed. It was my editor texting me: "Cn we hav ur piece at...?" Oh well, I just sniffed the bubbly.

Back home, the reaction statements came pouring in. **Scarlett Johansson's** comment on her Best Supporting Actress nod for **Woody Allen's** "Match Point" was sweet and ahem, well-observed: "It's great to be recognized by people who really watch and analyze and discuss the films. And it's really wonderful to share this excitement with Woody (Allen)."

Woody, in turn, said, "I'm always very gratified when anyone likes a movie I've done but I can't take the credit—it's a triumph for the cast."

But Clooney was on a roll this morning. His reaction made me smile and get over that glass of champagne at 6 in the morning, the one that I had skipped drinking so my editor "cn hav this piece" early: "I'll have to dust off my tux. It's hanging in the closet right next to the bat suit."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com)

KATE Beckinsale stunning at 4 a.m.

PHILIP Berk, president of the HFPA

PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

STHANLEE B. Mirador (center), Fil-Am lensman and colleagues at Globes announcement.

'Brokeback Mountain'

.. From page A2-1

HFPA president Philip Berk was joined by Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale and Steve Carrell, star of the hit comedy movie "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" in announcing the nominations which was telecast live in morning TV shows across the US. The Golden Globe Awards will be held on Jan. 16.

Anthony Hopkins will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.

The list of nominees:

MOTION PICTURE CATEGORIES

Dramatic Picture—"Brokeback Mountain," "The Constant Gardener," "Good Night, and Good Luck," "A History of Violence," "Match Point."

Musical or Comedy Picture—"Mrs. Henderson Presents," "Pride & Prejudice," "The Producers," "The Squid and the Whale," "Walk the Line."

Foreign Language Picture—"Kung Fu Hustle" (China), "Master of Crimson Armor" (China),"Merry Christmas" (France), "Paradise Now" (Palestine), "Tsotsi" (South Africa).

Best Director—George Clooney, "Good Night, and Good Luck"; Ang Lee, "Brokeback Mountain"; Woody Allen, "Match Point"; Peter Jackson, "King Kong"; Fernando Meirelles, "The Constant Gardener"; Steven Spielberg, "Munich."

Best Dramatic Actor—Heath Ledger, "Brokeback Mountain"; Russell Crowe, "Cinderella Man";Terrence Howard, "Hustle & Flow"; Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote"; David Strathairn, "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Best Dramatic Actress—Felicity Huffman, "Transamerica"; Maria Bello, "A History of Violence"; Gwyneth Paltrow, "Proof"; Charlize Theron, "North Country"; Ziyi Zhang, "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Best Actor, Comedy or Musical—Pierce Brosnan, "The Matador"; Jeff Daniels, "The Squid and the Whale"; Johnny Depp, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"; Nathan Lane, "The Producers"; Cillian Murphy, "Breakfast on Pluto"; Joaquin Phoenix, "Walk the Line."

Best Actress, Comedy or Musical—Judi Dench, "Mrs. Henderson Presents"; Keira Knightley, "Pride & Prejudice"; Laura Linney, "The Squid and the Whale"; Sarah Jessica Parker, "The Family Stone"; Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line."

Supporting Dramatic Actor—George Clooney, "Syriana"; Matt Dillon, "Crash"; Will Ferrell, "The Producers; Paul Giamatti, "Cinderella Man"; Bob Hoskins, "Mrs. Henderson Presents."

Supporting Dramatic Actress—Scarlett Johansson, "Match Point"; Shirley MacLaine, "In Her Shoes"; Frances McDormand, "North Country"; Rachel Weisz, "The Constant Gardener"; Michelle Williams, "Brokeback Mountain."

Screenplay—Woody Allen, "Match Point"; George Clooney and Grant Heslov, "Good Night, and Good Luck"; Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco, "Crash"; Tony Kushner and Eric Roth, "Munich"; Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, "Brokeback Mountain."

Original Score—Alexandre Desplat, "Syriana"; James Newton Howard, "King Kong"; Gustavo Santaolalla, "Brokeback Mountain"; Harry Gregson, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"; John Williams, "Memoirs of a Geisha."

TELEVISION CATEGORIES

Dramatic Series—"Commander in Chief,"

"Grey's Anatomy," "Lost," "Prison Break," "Rome."

Best Actor, Drama—Patrick Dempsey, "Grey's Anatomy"; Matthew Fox, "Lost"; Hugh Laurie, "House"; Wentworth Miller, "Prison Break"; Kiefer Sutherland, "24."

Best Actress, Drama—Patricia Arquette, "Medium"; Glenn Close, "The Shield"; Geena Davis, "Commander in Chief"; Kyra Sedgwick, "The Closer"; "Polly Walker, "Rome."

Series, Musical or Comedy—"Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Desperate Housewives," "Entourage," "Everybody Hates Chris," "My Name is Earl," "Weeds."

Best Actor, Musical or Comedy—Zach Braff, "Scrubs"; Steve Carell, "The Office"; Larry David, "Curb Your Enthusiasm"; Jason Lee, "My Name is Earl"; Charlie Sheen, "Two and a Half Men."

Best Actress, Musical or Comedy—Marcia Cross, "Desperate Housewives"; Teri Hatcher, "Desperate Housewives"; Felicity Huffman, "Desperate Housewives"; Eva Longoria, "Desperate Housewives"; Mary-Louise Parker, "Weeds."

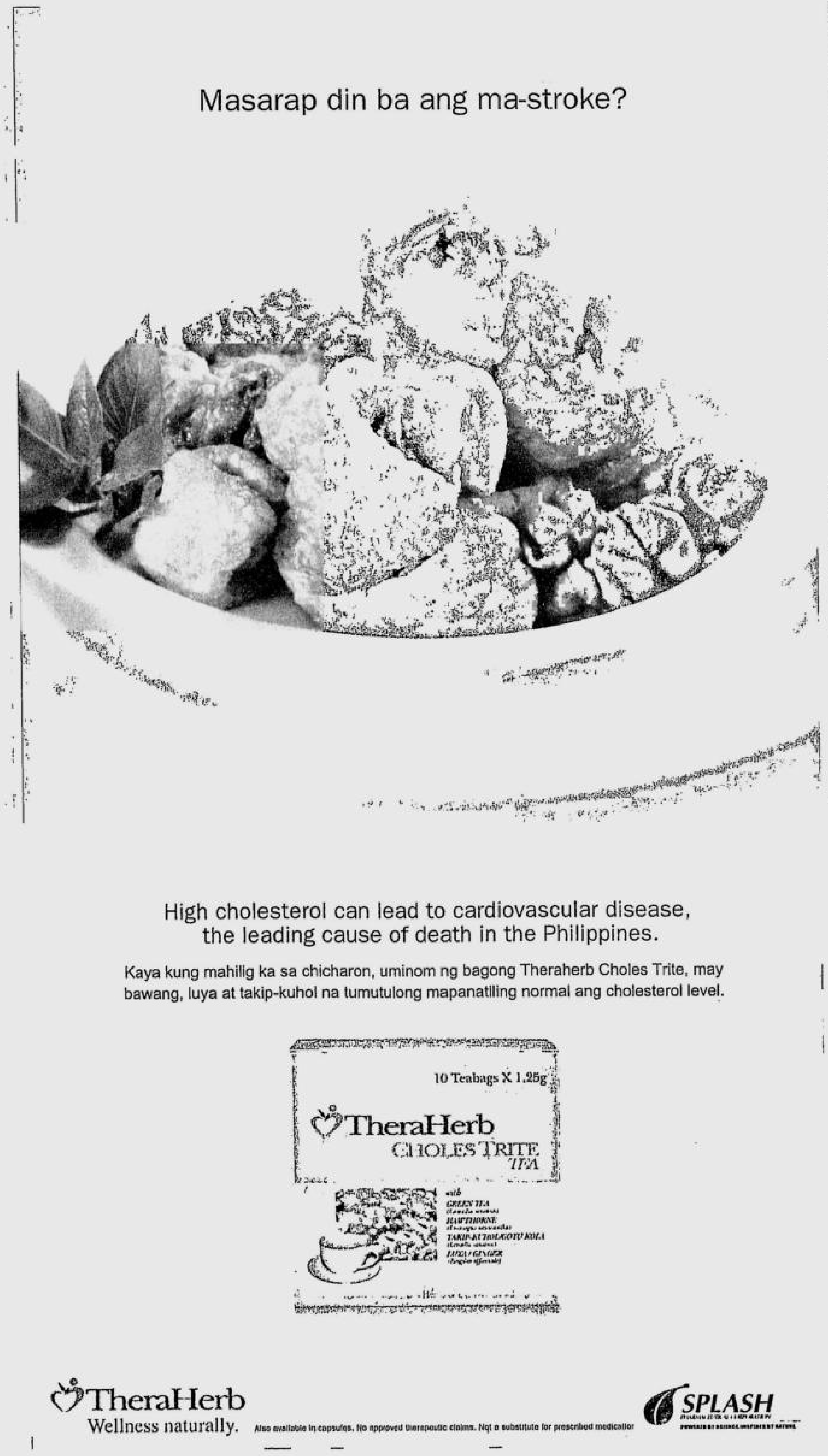
Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television—"Empire Falls," "Into the West," "Lackawanna Blues." "Sleeper Cell," "Viva Blackpool," "Warm Springs."

Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture made for TV—

Halle Berry, "Their Eyes Were Watching God"; Kelly MacDonald, "The Girl in the Café"; S. Epatha Merkerson, "Lackawanna Blues"; Cynthia Nixon, "Warm Springs"; Mira Sorvino, "Human Trafficking."

Best Peformance by an Actor in a Mini-Se-

'BROKEBACK'/A2-3



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Nominees say thanks

"I am very proud of 'Munich' and everyone who had a hand in bringing it to life, and I am extremely grateful to the HFPA."—**Steven Spielberg**

"It's a real honor to be a part of a movie that has been as well-received as 'Brokeback Mountain' has, and I'm so proud of it."—**Heath Ledger**

"I'm overjoyed with this nomination, and for having had the experience of working with Ang Lee and the rest of the gifted cast and filmmakers who made 'Brokeback Mountain' such a beautiful picture."—**Michelle Williams**

"I'm amazed and honored that we have been recognized by the HFPA and especially pleased that audiences are responding to John (Cash) and June's (Carter) amazing music and love story. We couldn't have done it without writer/director James Mangold whose commitment and vision inspired us all."—**Joaquin Phoenix**

"My deepest thanks for this recognition. I am so touched that the HFPA members have honored so many of the people who worked on 'Brokeback Mountain.' With the support of these nominations, this universal love story will be seen and heard by more and more people all over the globe."—**Ang Lee, Director.**

"I am simply elated by this nomination—and thrilled that the movie and our director, Fernando Meirelles, were nominated as well. The HFPA's support and encouragement of 'The Constant Gardener' has been so gratifying."—**Rachel Weisz**

"'North Country' is a very important movie to me, so I am so thankful to the Hollywood Foreign Press for recognizing me in the role of Josey Aimes. Working with Niki Caro was an incredible experience, and the fact that Frances McDormand was nominated for her performance is icing on the cake!"—**Charlize Theron**

"I am so proud and honored to be nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for my role as Julian Noble in 'The Matador' and for all of my friends and colleagues who helped make the movie. Bravo."—**Pierce Brosnan**

SPIELBERG

PHOENIX

WEISZ

'Brokeback Mountain ...

From page A2-2

ries or Motion Picture Made for TV—Kenneth Branagh, "Warm Springs"; Ed Harris, "Empire Falls"; Jonathan Rhys Meyers, "Elvis"; Billy Nighy, "The Girl in the Café"; Donald Sutherland, "Human Trafficking."

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV—Candice Bergen, "Boston Legal"; Camryn Manheim, "Elvis"; Sandra Oh, "Grey's Anatomy"; Elizabeth Perkins, "Weeds"; Joanne Woodward, "Empire Falls."

Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for TV—Naveen Andrews, "Lost"; Paul Newman, "Empire Falls"; Jeremy Piven, "Entourage"; Randy Quaid, "Elvis"; Donald Sutherland, "Commander in Chief."

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 KING KONG PG13 12:00, 3:40, 7:20, 11:00
CINEMA 4 KING KONG PG13 10:50, 2:30, 6:10, 9:50
CINEMA 5 KING KONG PG13 11:25, 3:05, 6:45, 10:25

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
December 17, 2005 MISHKA ADAMS 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

ROCKWELL POWER PLANT MALL SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MARKET MARKET NE PACIFIC MALL PAVILIO
M MALLS ROBINSONS MALLS AYALA MALLS ALI MALL MALL STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL THE P

SALE

MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

ROCKWELL POWER PLANT MALL SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MARKET MARKET NE PACIFIC MALL PAVILIO
M MALLS ROBINSONS MALLS AYALA MALLS ALI MALL MALL STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL THE P

PROMO PERIOD: DECEMBER [illegible] 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

It's a cool Christmas with these freebies from Sun.
Avail of a Sun postpaid line with a Sony Ericsson handset and get a cool new scent or other yuletide gifts.

FREE

FREE Benetton COLD 50ml eau de toilette with
Sony Ericsson Z520i
- Dual Display (Internal and External)
- Bluetooth, Infrared and Cable Connectivity
- VGA Camera with 4x Digital Zoom

FREE Benetton HOT 50ml eau de toilette with
Sony Ericsson K300i
- Integrated VGA Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
- Music and Video Player
- MMS Capable

FREE Penshoppe Graphic Tee with
Sony Ericsson J210i
- Tri-band
- MMS Capable
- 65K Color Display

Promo runs from Dec 14 - 18, 2005. Hurry to The Sun Shop nearest you.

HANDSETS	PLAN 350	PLAN 600	PLAN 1000	PLAN 2000	PLAN 3500
SE J210i	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
SE K300i	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
SE Z520i	7,700	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE

Sony Ericsson

See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6891. Series of 2005.

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IN THEATERS WORLDWIDE DECEMBER 14
WATCH THE BIGGEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR IN ALL OF SM CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
RED CARPET PREMIERE
AKO LEGAL WIFE
Dec. 17 • Megamall • Cinema 3
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 2K5
Dec. 20 • Megamall • Cinema 3
KUTOB
Dec. 20 • The Podium • Cinema 2
ENTENG KABISOTE 2
Dec. 21 • The Podium • Cinema 2
EXODUS: TALES FROM THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM
Dec. 22 • Megamall • Cinema 10
MULAWIN
Dec. 23 • North Edsa • Cinema 1 & 2

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TWICE THE ACTION! TWICE THE FUN!
Samuel Jackson Eugene Levy
The MAN
Directed by Les Mayfield
NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT SM CINEMAS
Bacoor, Bicutan, Fairview, Los Piñas, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, and Valenzuela

GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 KING KONG
10:40FS/11:00MF/02:30/06:00
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/12:40END
2 KING KONG
12:50FS/01:20MF/05:00
08:10LFS/08:40LMF/11:50END
MEGAMALL
1 KING KONG
11:40FS/12:10MF/03:50
07:05LFS/07:30LMF/10:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 RESERVED
2 KING KONG
11:00FS/11:15MF/02:40/06:05
09:13LFS/09:30LMF/12:35END
3 KING KONG
10:35FS/10:45MF/02:10/05:35
08:43LFS/09:00LMF/12:05END

Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros
WORLD-CLASS, PROUDLY PINOY!
"Kuwento itong batang bading pero hindi ito tungkol sa kabaklaan. It's about first love but more importantly it's about love for family. I LOVE THIS FILM!"
"May puso. WORLD CLASS PINOY FILM."
BEST PICTURE
BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTOR
BEST PICTURE BEST ACTOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN Cinemalaya 2005
BEST PICTURE
NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 KING KONG
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 KING KONG
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 THE FOG
9 KING KONG
10 KING KONG
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 THE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 KING KONG
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 KING KONG
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 MERRY CHRISTMAS
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE MAN
4 KING KONG

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 THE FOG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE MYTH
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 KING KONG
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 THE FOG
7 KING KONG
8 KING KONG
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
11 THE MAN
12 KING KONG

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 KING KONG
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 THE MAN
8 THE FOG
9 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
10 HARI NG SABLAY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 THE FOG
6 THE MAN
7 KING KONG
8 MERRY CHRISTMAS

SM CITY MANILA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 KING KONG
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 KING KONG
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 KING KONG
10 KING KONG
11 THE MYTH
12 THE MAN

SM SAN LAZARO
1 KING KONG
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 THE MAN
5 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 KING KONG

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 KING KONG

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE MAN
4 KING KONG

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE FOG
4 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 THE FOG
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 KING KONG
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 KING KONG
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
4 KING KONG

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 KING KONG
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG

SM CITY LUCENA
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 RESERVED
2 KING KONG
3 KING KONG
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 KING KONG
6 THE MYTH
7 KING KONG
8 KING KONG

SM CITY ILOILO
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 RESERVED
3 KING KONG
4 KING KONG
5 KING KONG
6 JED MADELA CONCERT
7 THE FOG
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY DAVAO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 THE FOG
5 KING KONG
6 KING KONG

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 KING KONG
2 KING KONG
3 THE MYTH
4 KING KONG

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Classical crossover 'with a beat'

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

IT WOULD SEEM THAT MAKSIM IS on the wrong side of the musical fence.

With his ramp-model build and in-rock star attire, this 30-year-old dude happens to be a pianist—not in the mold of British singer-songwriters, but rather in the tradition of Russian or German classicists.

And yet Maksim, who describes his music as classical crossover "with a beat," is reportedly a big hit not only in his native Croatia and Europe, but across Asia as well.

SHOW TIME

Will he also gain local fans after his concert tonight at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)?

In the CD "New World" (his third release on EMI), Maksim is backed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London.

His piano playing is understated and restrained, never up front but always conscious of ensemble performance. What's noticeable—and this is where classical purists might balk—is that Maksim employs the technological device of programmed rhythms to accentuate his repertoire.

MYMP at Glorietta

So that's what he means by classical music having a beat. One would think this is worse than pop interpretations of classics, but not to worry; Maksim obviously means no disrespect to the masters. He's just young and open to the idea that the complexity of orchestral arrangements could sound more interesting with contemporary embellishments.

Maksim is very careful, though, not to mess too much with such classics as "Tosca" and "Ride of the Valkyries," preferring instead to fly high with "Nostradamus," "Desert Skies" and "Mojito," among other tracks composed by his collaborator Tonci Hulkjic.

But the overall effect is still worthwhile: joy and sorrow, fear and anxiety, suspense and adventure, impulse and contemplation, practically the whole gamut of human sensibilities may be felt through Maksim's music.

And if one can experience it without having to wear formal clothes, the PICC would most probably transform into a big jumpin' joint.

Tower Philippines turns 7

Tower Records marks its seventh year in the Philippines with a free concert headlining the country's top hitmakers at the Ayala Center in Makati City tomorrow. The event is being staged in cooperation with the Philippine Association of the Recording Industry.

A star-studded celebration is set at the Glorietta Activity Center from 3 to 9 p.m. It will be topbilled by MYMP, Keith Martin, Sugarfree, Upharmodown, Akafellas, Join the Club, Cynthia Alexander, Silent Sanctuary, Raymond Lauchengco, Peace Pipe, Pupil, Menaya and Stonrefree.

MAKSIM upon arrival in Manila on Wednesday. ROGER MARGALLO

Tonight

Liquid Apples at **Taste Buds**, Robinsons Place Manila

Freeverseand Michael Angelo at Suburbia

Ron Antonio and **Natural Highat Virgin Café**

"**Barney's Musical Castle Asia Tour 2005**" at the **Araneta Coliseum**; 6 p.m.

"Bacharach Dreams" with **Jake Macapagal, Lana Jalosjos, Nino Alejandro, Crisel Consunji** and **Michael de Mesa** at **Premiere THX**, Amorsolo St., Makati

Joyride at **Elbow Room**, Metrowalk, Pasig

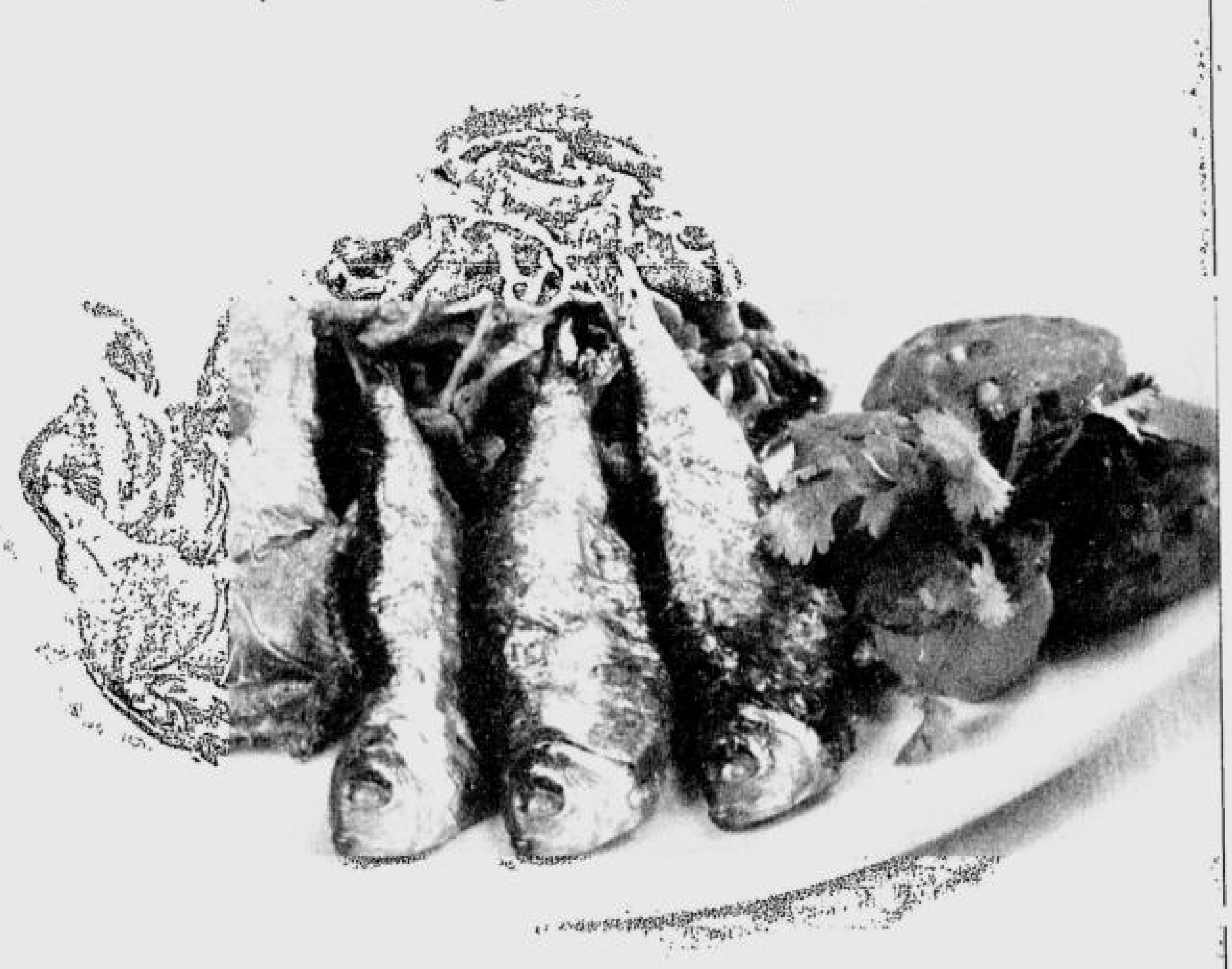
Tomorrow

Mishka Adams in a farewell concert at the **Music Museum**. Call 891-9999.

Tower Records 7th Anniversary Party at the **Ayala Center** in Makati

Jose Mari Chan at **SM Cebu** Cinema 2

Nyoy Volante at **Clamshell 2** in Intramuros with **King, Rush Band, Anton Diva, Le Chazz, Ron Antonio** and **Freemale Dancers**

Masarap din ba ang magpa-kidney transplant?

Every hour, one Filipino develops chronic renal failure.
Kaya kung masyado kang mahilig sa maalat, simulan nang uminom ng bagong Theraherb Kidneyaide, may sambong at balbas-pusa na nakakatulong sa pangangalaga ng kidneys.

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GREEN TEA
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Wellness naturally.
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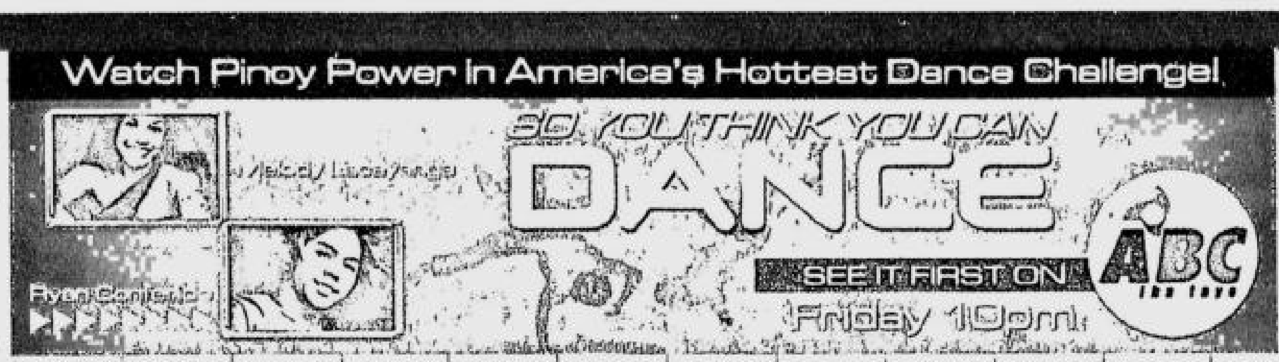
SPLASH

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, December 16, 2005

Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!

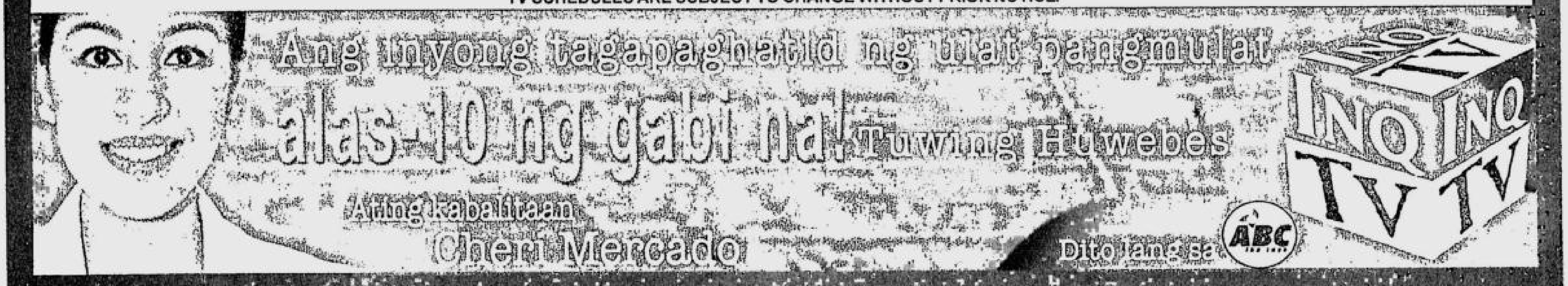


Melody Lacayanga
Ryan Conferido
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE
SEE IT FIRST ON ABC
Friday 10pm

ClickTheCity.com
[illegible]

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	So You Think You Can Dance		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Kung Fu Fight Nights			Insider
AXN		Kung Fu Hustle				Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Mondo Magic	E Buzz	XXX					The Cable Guy
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Powerpuff Girls	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Dugo At Pag-ibig				Himala				Ngayong Nandito Ka				Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko				Mila	
Cinemax		Come September				Trucks (6:15 PM)								First Target			Premonition		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Deadliest Catch		The Most Extreme		American Chopper		Animal Face-Off		Walking With Prehistoric Beasts		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		World Snooker Trick Shot Masters '05				Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Rewind, World Badminton C'ships '05				English Premier League Preview	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 Men's World Summit of Pool		Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTN Gallery	Super Saints	Life on The Rock Encore		Marriage Works In Christ	Defending Life	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Holy Spirit In The Church	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Date With Tiffany		Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk	Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Encantadia	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched IV	The Nanny III	Family Law II		Judging Amy		Dog Gone Love			Wife Swap III (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO		Mardi X			Second Sight			Perfect Strangers			The Last Ride			Van Helsing				Angels In America Chapter 5 Beyond Nelly	
IBC 13		EZ Shop	JVC Interscholastic Championship			Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol		Global Family Series		ME TV		Penalosa Primer		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		WWE: Survivor Series 2005				Worst Case Scenario	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	5 Things About Click Five	Mush		Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Get Hitch'd	Get Spotted	Diyes		Wade Robson Project	Trippin	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Amazing Moments		Be The Creature				Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Amazing Moments		Hogzilla	
NBN				New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Sea Games		Teledyaryo				Kamao		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	The Fairly Odd Parents - Channel Chasers	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Magdusa Ka				Kapirasong Langit				Kahit Butas ng Karayom Papasukin Ko				Motown Greatest Hits Concert				Strict Ang Parents Ko
Qtv		Endless Christmas (Navidad Sin Fin)	Mariana (Sin Pecado Concebido)	Cabecita	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Golden Bowl	Star	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		All In	News On Q	Love Life		Groupee TV	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Krusada Kontra Kemen		As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Cold Case		Medium		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Bmg Video			
Solar Sports	WTA '05 General Ladies Linz,Austria SF2				GWS Ep.50-2005	Denmark Open Wmn's Doubles Finals		Denmark Open Women's Doubles SF		Sagupaan	Super X Series Bicol	Sportsdesk		NBA Game Rockets @ Sonics					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus												Raceworld							
Star Movies			Long Time Dead			Sylvia (5:05 PM)			Seabiscuit (6:40 PM)					The Whole Ten Yards			Robocop (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector/ Miss World		Angel/ NYPD Blue		Friends	Ultimate Force
Studio 23		Rave						The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Survivor Guatemala		Barkada Nights		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ang kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Get charged up this Christmas with this freebie from Sun.

Avail of a Sun postpaid line with an O2 handset and get this early Christmas present for FREE!

FREE

FREE Car Charger with
O2 XDA II Mini
• PDA phone with 1.3 megapixel camera
• Microsoft Applications
• Free 256 MB SD memory card

Promo runs from Dec 14 - 18, 2005. Hurry to The Sun Shop nearest you.

HANDSET	PLAN 350	PLAN 600	PLAN 1000	PLAN 2000	PLAN 3500
02 XDA II Mini	31,000	26,000	21,000	6,000	FREE

O2

See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6891. Series of 2005.

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GALLERIA
632-9116

1 KING KONG • THX
11:30 3:10 6:50 10:30

2 KING KONG
12:40 4:20 8:00

3 KING KONG
1:10 4:50 8:30

4 KING KONG
1:40 5:20 9:00

5 KING KONG
11:00 2:40 6:20 10:00

6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30

7 IN HER SHOES
1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

8 THE FOG
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 KING KONG 1:50 5:20 8:50

2 HARRY POTTER 4 12:30 3:40
IN HER SHOES 7:00 9:50

3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 KING KONG
11:20 2:50 6:20 9:50

5 KING KONG
11:20 2:50 6:20 9:50

6 KING KONG
12:20 3:50 7:20

7 THE FOG
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 KING KONG
10:25 2:10 5:50 9:40

3 KING KONG
2:10 5:55 9:40

4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 THE FOG
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

6 KING KONG
5:15 9:00

7 KING KONG
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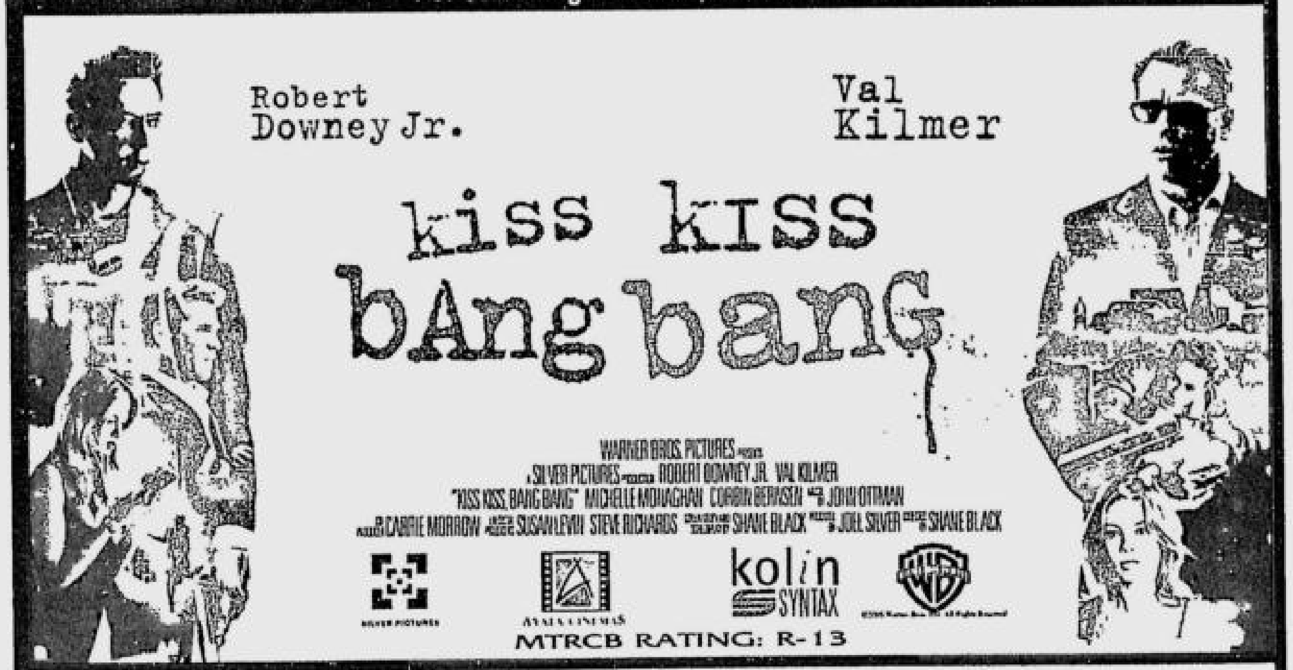
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GMA

3 defy the odds for 'Starstruck'

By Marinel R. Cruz

JANA Roxas

BUGZ Diago

JANA ROXAS HOPES TO someday repay her grandmother, who took care of her since she was a baby.

That's why she joined "Starstruck: The Nationwide Invasion," GMA 7's reality-based talent search, inspired by the US hit show "American Idol" on Fox TV.

Jana, 15, is hoping to win the P1-million cash prize, as well as the P2-million exclusive management contract with GMA 7, for her grandmother, Baby Bangis, 60, who is suffering from cancer of the gall bladder.

Jana's parents were separated shortly after she was born. She never met her father, while her mother, Vicky, left and remarried. Lola Baby, on her own, raised Jana, the lass from Tarlac.

"When I heard about the 'Starstruck' audition, I decided to try my luck. Lola and I traveled to Dagupan where the audition was held. I passed," Jana told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday during the launch of the show's Final 14 at GMA 7's Studio 3 in Quezon City.

Days after the audition results were announced, doctors found a malignant tumor in Lola Baby's gall bladder. "The doctors aren't optimistic," Jana said. "She's at home right now. I didn't want to leave her behind but she said, 'I know this is what you've always wanted. Don't worry about me too much.' I'm doing this for my *lola*."

Jana is one of the 14 finalists—seven boys, seven girls—in the talent search. Two winners, a boy and a girl, will emerge as "Starstruck Ultimate Survivors" and will be added to GMA 7's stable of stars.

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LOS ANGELES—AS A KID IN NEW Zealand, Peter Jackson caught the original "King Kong" on TV one night and was so blown away, he decided to make movies just like that 1933 classic.

Thank heavens his local station wasn't running a Jerry Lewis marathon.

REVIEW

It was reasonable to figure there was no way Jackson could top his monumental "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Yet Jackson's done so with his spectacular update of the country-ape-meets-city-girl love story, his "King Kong" passionately commemorating the original while adding chills, frills and thrills by the boatload.

Just when it seemed Hollywood had reached a visual-effects plateau, along comes "Kong" to swing to new peaks of dazzling digital storytelling.

The action sequences are stupendous, some almost visionary in conception and design. We're used to seeing bigger, badder variants of things we've seen before in Hollywood movies, yet "King Kong" is a rare beast that startles again and again.

The hours fly

Certainly, Jackson is guilty of piling on throughout "King Kong," indulging himself in an excess of excess like a famished gorilla turned loose at a farmer's market.

Topping three hours, the film is almost twice as long as the 1933 version and feels like the extended cut studios put out on DVD a year or two after the theatrical release. The overlong Manhattan setup and shipboard journey to Kong's island could have been cut considerably.

Still, when what's on screen is as

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QTV

EVER SINCE IT STARTED telecasting, we've been viewing the shows of the new QTV 11. We've come up with reviews of specific programs, but our long-term goal has been to evaluate the channel's entire programming thrust, to differentiate it from other free TV channels on the tube.

It's no secret that the Q in QTV stands for Quality. How well has the channel succeeded in coming up with quality shows? Well, it does have outstanding and significant programs like "Women's Desk" and "Pusong Wagi," but most of its other shows are more commercial and diversionary in approach.

Now, that's not necessarily a bad thing, provided professional production standards are met, and the viewing public's sensibilities are respected. *Are they?*

After careful evaluation of the many QTV 11 shows we've seen, we have to say that the new channel's weakest points are its "comedy" programs, its generally giddy hosting style, its relative lack of shows for children, and its paucity in terms of news and public affairs programs.

We hope this isn't because the channel is supposed to be mainly "for women," and some studio bosses feel that women aren't all that interested in topical programs.

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ape meets city girl

as this, three hours pass quickly. like the woeful 1976 remake, h updated the story to modern . Jackson's version takes the stock to 1933.

nscrupulous filmmaker Carl Den- (Jack Black, showing dramatic chops beyond expectations) is about to get shut down by his financiers on his trek to Skull Island, a lost world where he plans to shoot an adventure Denham unleashes a flurry of o assemble his equipment and aboard the tramp steamer that arry them to the south seas, hop- shove off before the money men can stop him.

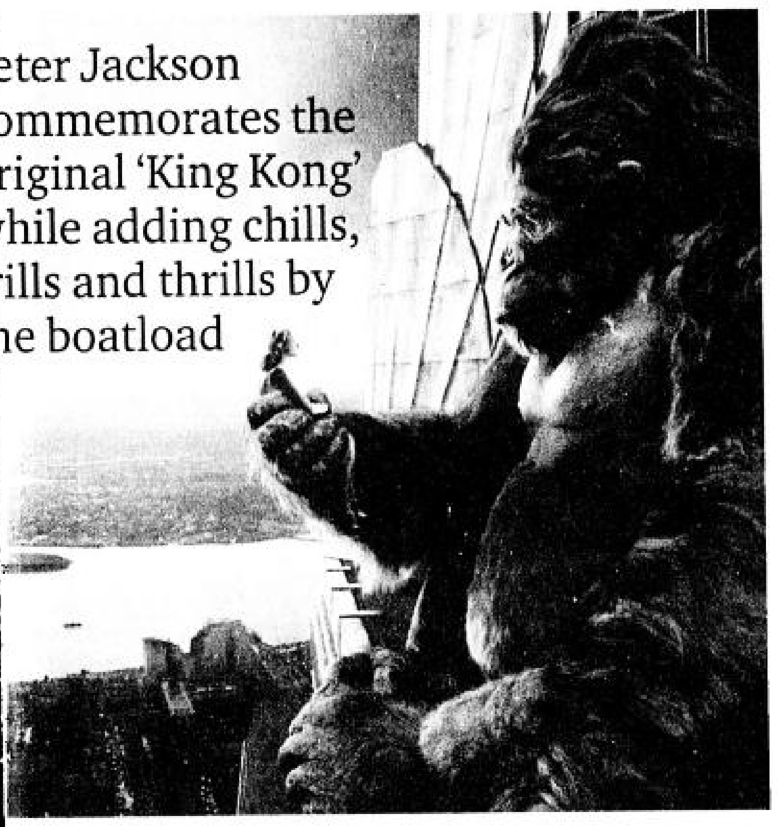
With his leading lady a no-show, Carl encounters out-of-work vaudevillian Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts, who proves she has as good a set of pipes as her "Kong" predecessor Fay Wray). Carl cons Ann into signing on and manages to hijack his screenwriter, playwright Jack Driscoll (Adrien Brody, a sturdily heroic presence), to complete the script during the voyage.

On Skull Island, the natives kidnap Ann as a sacrifice to the feared 25-foot gorilla. Having fallen for Ann, Jack convinces the others to mount a rescue mission, leading them into a land that time forgot.

When the branches begin to creak and the boughs start to break before Kong's first entrance, it's as big a moment of expectation as today's seen-it-all audiences are likely to experience.

From then on, the action and drama never let up. Kong's battle with multiple tyrannosaurs in a net of vines is one of the greatest action sequences ever made.

Instead of Kong's love-at-first-sight fixation with Wray in the original, Watts' Ann has to work for the ape's affections, her charms gradually elevating her from battered plaything to cherished trophy girlfriend.



eter Jackson ommemorates the riginal 'King Kong' hile adding chills, ills and thrills by ne boatload

Boy, can she!

As for Watts, this woman can really scream. With little dialogue, Watts captures mournful tenderness for the big galoot after he's captured and brought to New York as a sideshow freak.

The computer-generated Kong is a marvel, his movements and expressions embodying primal rage, bestial bewilderment, even hearty humor. The filmmakers suffuse Kong with majestic melancholy and deepen his sense of loneliness with hints that he once had brethren but now is the last of his kind.

From his king of New York chest-beating atop the Empire State Building to his last tortured glances at Ann, Kong feels like a living, breathing character with old-soul pathos.

"The whole world will pay to see this," Denham declares, contemplating the fortune he can make putting Kong on display.

Jackson can count on the same reception for his "Kong." *David Germain,* AP

11's strong and weak points

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In any case, the big puzzlement about QTV 11's shows is the relative weakness of its comedy shows. Many of them simply aren't all that funny.

Some of its sitcoms are characterized by shrill, slapstick performances by raw talents or old comics that come off as too hyper to be funny. Humor needs warmth and likability, not a sledgehammer approach.

Poor hosting has also hounded some of the channel's shows. After we commented on the hosting on "Moms," a third host was added, in the person of **Manilyn Reynes**. We hope that she can help the show get its act together.

If the show sticks to its focus on issues involving parenting, it could become one of the channel's more important programs.

Other QTV 11 shows also suffer from inept hosting, so we urge the people in charge to review their options in this regard.

Part of the problem appears to be the channel's tendency to choose actors as hosts. Yes, actors are popular, but they're generally too self-absorbed to make good interviewers who are genuinely interested in their interview subjects.

Also, they may not be aware that competent hosting requires much more than just looking good, yakking your head off, reading idiot boards, and screaming at the top of your voice.

Wrapping up now, we trust that the channel will beef up its programs for children, and its news and public affairs programming, because these are really important areas that need to be represented on the tube.

Ending on a positive note, we're impressed with the channel's ability to debut with a full range of new programs across the board—no mean feat, as other TV people will attest.

Price Blast

ALPHA Music heralds the arrival of Christmas with Price Blast, a special sale of a wide array of albums, from rock to pop, and alternative to OPM, including VCD and DVD at reduced prices.

'Nasaan si Kaliwete'

CLIFFORD Odets' "Waiting for Lefty" is now a Tanghalang Ateneo presentation in **Gerry de Asis**' Filipino translation, "Nasaan si Kaliwete," until Dec. 17 at the Ateneo's Rizal Mini-Theater. Call 426-6001, local 5121.

The play revolves around entwined stories of people losing their hope of having a better life, as they confront the harsh demands of low-paying jobs or unemployment.

As the union workers debate, their decision to stage a wildcat strike increasingly rests on the shoulders of their leader, Kaliwete. But, where is he? And, is his presence necessary for the workers to rise above their individual fears and band together in a mass demonstration? The play underscores the activist credo that the militant, not the meek, shall inherit the earth.

Christmas album

"KINIKILIG Ako sa Paskong Ito" is a nonstop Christmas dance compilation that features four medleys fronted by a popular Top 40s tune "Kilig Christmas Medley" opens with "kilig." The "Mr. Suave Medley" includes carols like "Little Drummer Boy" and "Joy to the World." "Chocolate Medley" features "Sleigh Ride" and "Jingle Bell Rock." And the last medley opens with the popular dance hit, "Dragostea Din Tei" and segues to Yuletide tunes like "What Child Is This" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

3 defy the odds…

From page A3-1

The finalists, selected from all over the country, will go through a series of workshops and real-life challenges. Each week, one will be eliminated until just the two final winners remain.

Dad-defying

Jackie Rice, 15, of Olongapo City, defied her American soldier father's order when she auditioned.

"He's a retired marine officer," Jackie said. "He's so strict. He once told me, 'You don't need to join show biz.' I want to prove to him that I can make my own decisions."

She added: "I'm not angry with him. He used to be a drug dependent [but] he's a changed man now. He's still overly strict, though. He locks the doors if I come home later than 5 p.m. I know he's just concerned about my welfare, but I cry about it a lot."

Bugz's Diago, 18, left Cebu and his budding career as TV host there to try his luck in Manila. He auditioned for a youth-oriented program on GMA 7 titled "Oi!" and passed. "'Starstruck' is so much better," he said. "Now, the whole country can watch me."

Like Jana, Bugz's parents separated when he was young. He got to meet his father only when he flew to Manila for "Starstruck."

"The first meeting was weird," he recalled. "I didn't join this contest so I could see him. It's just one of the perks of joining 'Starstruck.' What I really want is to win so I could bring home money for my family, the family that my father left behind."

Other finalists in the talent search are Chuck Allie of Davao, Sara Larsson and Gian Carlos of Iloilo, Vaness del Moral of Baguio City, Marky Cielo of Mt. Province, Arci Muñoz and Rea Nakpil of Rizal, Vivo Ouano and Johan Santos of Quezon City, Iwa Moto of Las Piñas and Jeric Rizalano of San Juan.

"Starstruck" is hosted by Dingdong Dantes, Jolina Magdangal and Raymond Gutierrez. Romeel Gacho directs. The program airs from Sunday to Friday.

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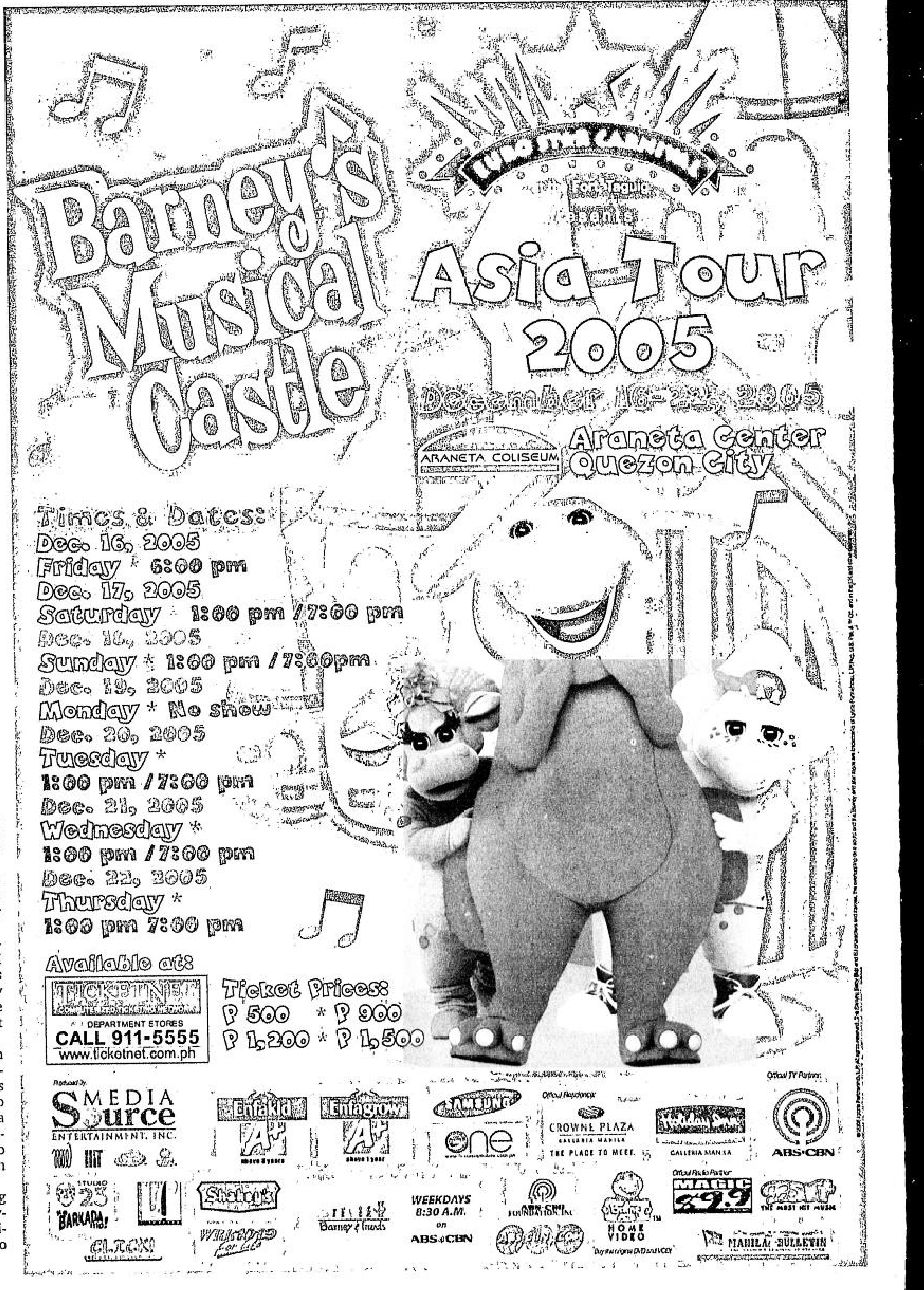

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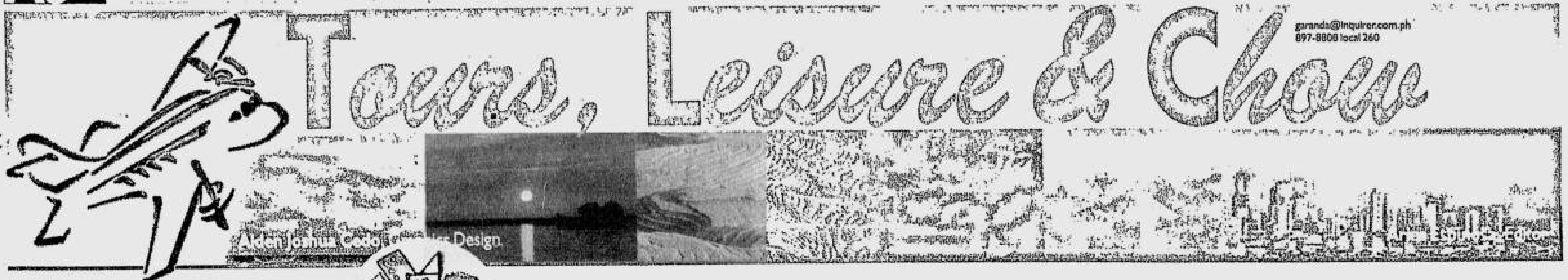

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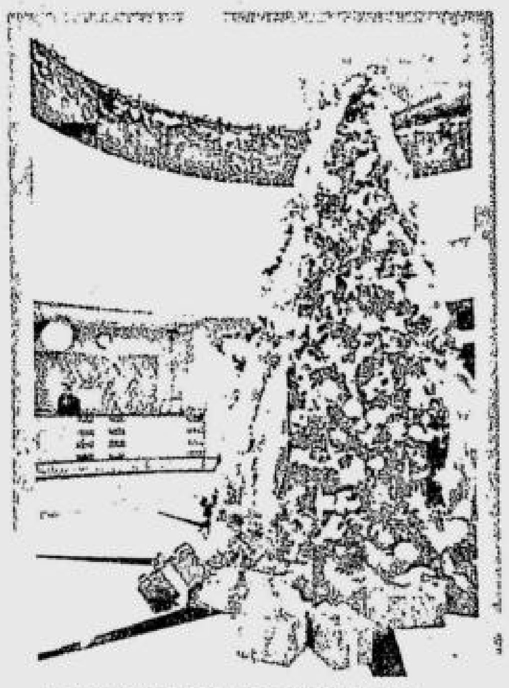

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Manila Pavilion Hotel's special room promos

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The Gift of Gold includes a Deluxe Room accommodation with a surprise gift for two kids for only US$70 net. Guests may also opt to avail of a buffet breakfast at the Café Coquilla for an additional amount. Plus, those who order one standard drink at the Boulvar Lobby Lounge entitles him or her to another round for free.

The Gift of Frankincense offers a Superior Room accommodation with buffet breakfast at the Café Coquilla and a surprise gift for two kids for only P3,500 net. For an upgrade to a Junior Suite, just add P1,000 net. Guests who avail of this upgrade on Dec. 25, 2005 and Jan. 1, 2006 will get a special rate of P2,500 net at the Café Coquilla Holiday Brunch. This is good for two adults and two kids 12 years old and below.

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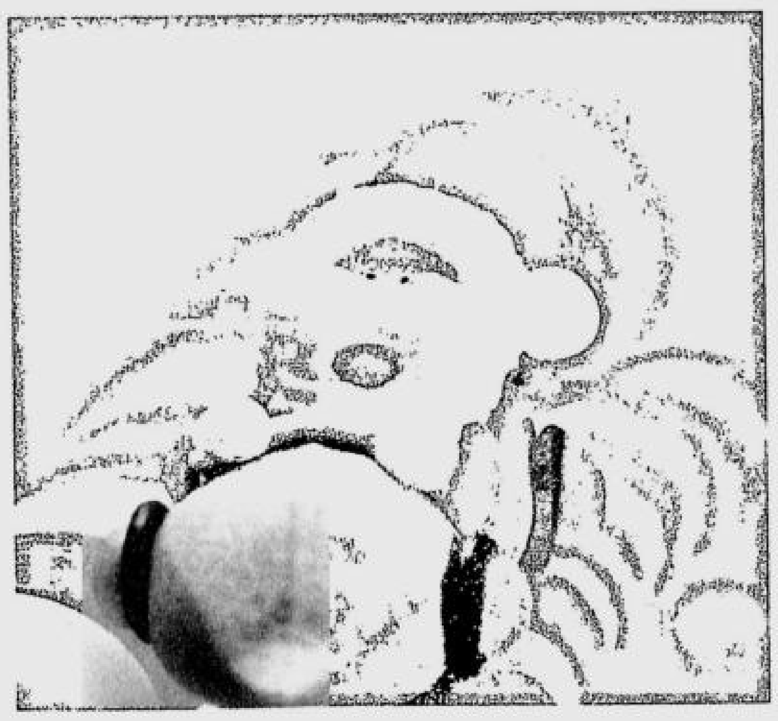

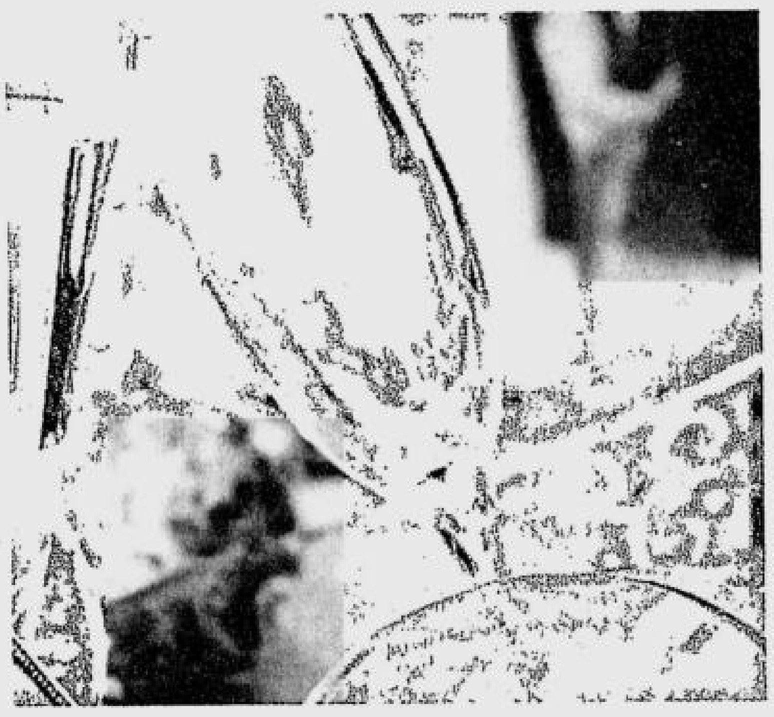

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Edsa Shangri-La's 2 + 1 Christmas Package is definitely the ultimate solution to gathering family and friends during the holidays, a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of the season. For inquiries and reservations, please call 636-9083 to 87 or email reservations.esl@shangri-la.com.

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URS STUDENTS VISIT LAS PALMAS TO LEARN HOTEL OPERATIONS
The Hotel and Restaurant students of the University of Rizal System Morong Campus, recently had an on-site lecture and demonstrations on hotel operations at the Colonial Ballroom of Las Palmas Hotel. Photo shows the students of URS and their faculty - Claudine Dematera, Susan Pinto, Luisa San Juan and Claridad Dalit with Patty Martin - The Palm Hotels corporate executive housekeeper, Anne Dizon - Las Palmas Hotel sales manager and Sharon Medianero - Las Palmas Hotel senior account manager.

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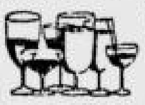
WHAT'S INSIDE

Peter fabulous /B3



Poor nations flex muscles at WTO meet /B11

INDICATORS

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.22% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.22 percent lower due to political concerns and fears that the central bank would soon raise its key interest rates, dealers said.

They said recent events, including the escape of a military mutineer and the arrest of a retired general who proclaimed himself "president," raised concerns that another coup plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo was being hatched.

The composite index fell 25.58 points to 2,071.67 after trading between

SHARES/ B6

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱53.25 = $
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 15, 2005

¥116.46 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 15, 2005

GOLD: $522.00-522.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 13, 2005

Jobless rate down to 7.4%

Services sector hiring more workers to meet demand

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S UNEMPLOYMENT rate dropped slightly to 7.4 percent in October from 7.7 percent last July, as the services sector hired more workers to accommodate rising business activity.

The National Statistics Office said the rate translated to 2.6 million unemployed Filipinos out of the 35.5 million members of the labor force. This means, 32.9 million were employed in October, up by 1.1 million or 3.6 percent from year-ago level.

The NSO defines unemployed people as those who are at least 15 years old, without jobs although they are available for work. They include those seeking work and those who are not due to temporary illness or are awaiting results of previous job applications.

A labor force survey conducted by the NSO for October showed that of the 2.6 million unemployed, half did not look for work. Of these, 37.1 percent believed there was no work available for them, or that they were already tired looking for jobs. Some said they were awaiting results of previous job applications while the others were suffering from temporary illness.

The survey showed that the services sector recorded the highest increase in job generation

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SETTLES PAST DUE PAYMENTS

NSC regains good credit standing with banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL STEEL CORP. HAS REGAINED its favorable credit standing with lenders after the steel mill's Indian owners settled past due payments.

"We got the payment and the standing L/C (letter of credit), so we've lifted the default declaration," said Alfonso Cruz, executive vice president of Land Bank of the Philippines, one of NSC's creditors.

Cruz said the NSC settled the P250-million amortization due last October and renewed the L/C required by the creditors to cover future payments.

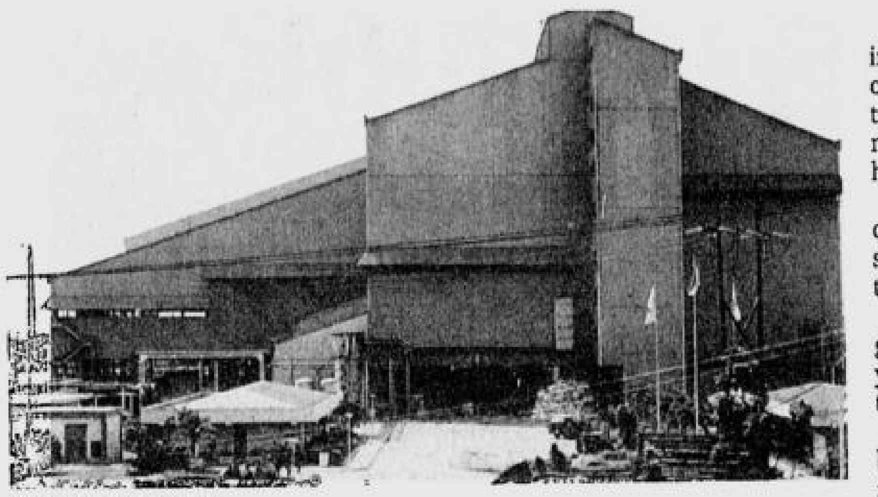
The NSC was required to get a P500-million L/C to show its commitment to creditor-banks.

With NSC no longer in default, the steel mill could now borrow more funds.

Philippine National Bank is the biggest creditor of NSC, but approval from other creditors like Landbank were needed to formally lift the default call.

The Iligan-based steel plant is now being operated by Global Steelworks International Inc. of the Ispat group of India.

The Ispat group took over NSC following a deal with creditor banks that was touted as among the biggest asset sales since the Special Purpose Vehicle law was passed in 2002.


NSC plant in Iligan

The deal was designed to, among others, ease the bad loan burden of the banks, enabling them to lend more funds for new borrowers.

Excluding non-bank creditors, the banking system's total exposure to NSC originally stood at about P12 billion.

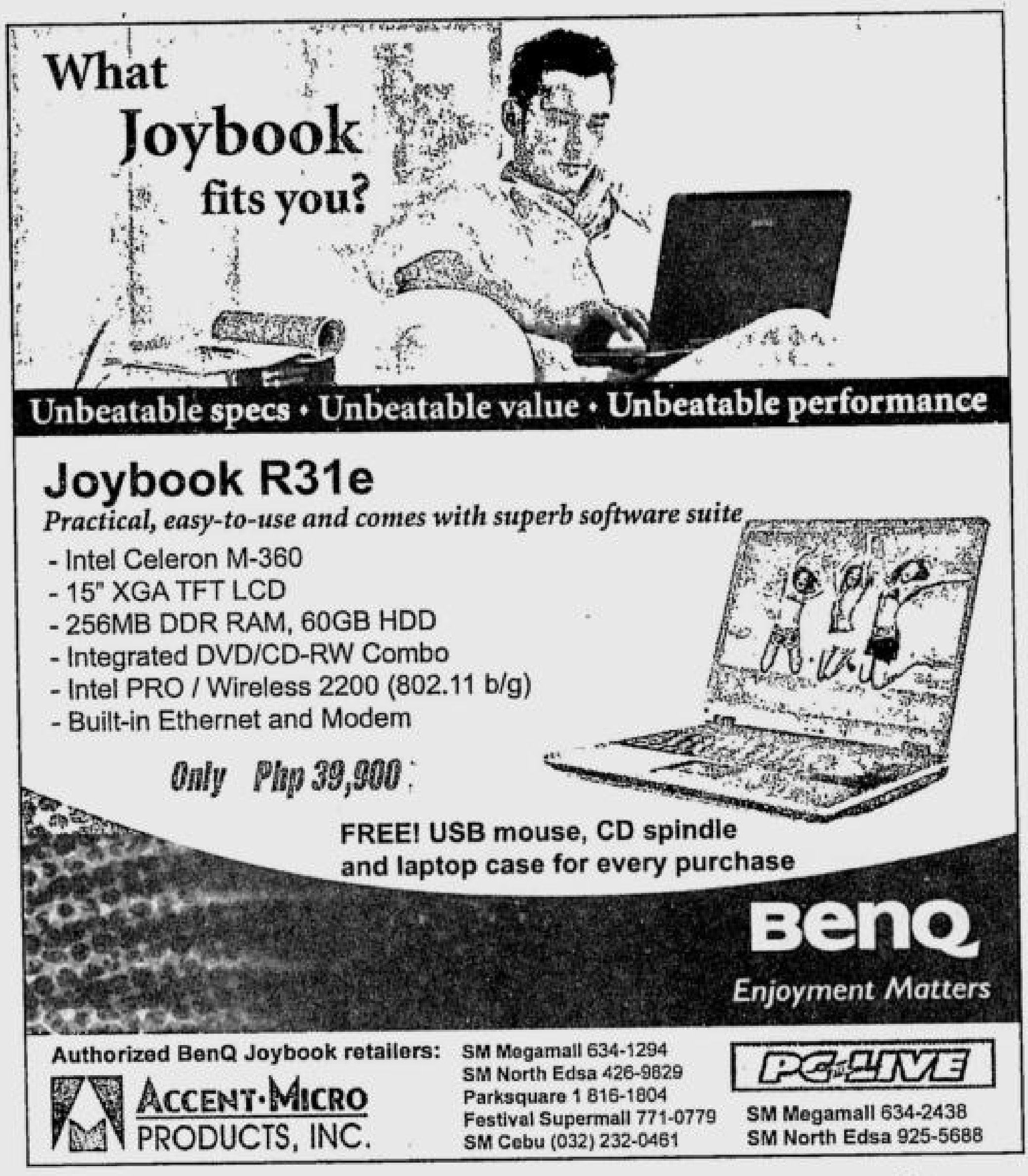
There were 18 parties represented in the selling consortium, composed of 13 local banks, a foreign bank, a trustee in behalf of long-term commercial paper holders, an investment house and two government agencies.

After the signing of the asset purchase agreement, another deal was struck between the Indian group and the secured creditors.

The deal provided for the Indian group's payment over the next eight years of the remaining P12.25 billion that NSC owes its secured creditors.

NSC collapse in 1999 under the burden of over P16 billion in debt it incurred partly in the expansion of its operations.

The adverse impact of the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar on its finances was aggravated by the influx of cheap steel imports which made its products less competitive.



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MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE LAST REGION IN MINDANAO the Consultative Commission (ConCom) visited to get a feel of the people's pulse was Western Mindanao, which is composed of the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Commissioner Raul Lambino, who headed the Zamboanga ConCom team, had clearly stated in his opening statement that the commission was there to "listen" to the people's voice, and to consolidate these "voices" in the final documents of the ConCom.

Similar to the other consultations, the one in Western Mindanao had three workshops: The first on the form of government (presidential or parliamentary); the second on the structure of government (unitary of federal); and the last on national patrimony and economic reforms.

Retain present system

Unlike the participants in southern and northern Mindanao, most of those in the Western Mindanao consultation prefer to retain the presidential system, saying that they want the country's leader to be directly elected by the people.

In the parliamentary form, the members of parliament—by a majority vote—will choose the prime minister, who shall exercise executive powers, and a president who shall be head of the state.

The retention of the bicameral system; where there is an Upper and Lower House—Congress and Senate—was a clear choice of the majority.

Lively discussion

What followed was a lively discussion on the weaknesses of the parliamentary vis-à-vis the presidential form of government.

The participants expressed very strong views on the retention of the unitary form of government, where power emanates from the central government.

Again, the general sense of the people in the western part of our island seems to be in contrast with the views of those from the southern and northern areas.

They did not believe that a federal form of government would bring about better governance and empowerment for the region.

'Limited shares'

The main proposal of increasing foreign participation in the development of our economy was a major discussion point during the workshop on economy and national patrimony.

The participants were amenable to allowing foreigners "limited" shares in the ownership of commercial and residential lands, but not agricultural lands.

They did not elaborate on what they believed is an acceptable range of foreign ownership of commercial and residential lands, public utilities, advertising and mass media.

Getting involved

The ARMM consultation was facilitated by Commissioner Emilie Maharombsar in the cities of Cotabato and Marawi.

It was good to see LGU leaders, such as Mayor Muslimen Sema and Mayor Omar Solitaria, getting involved in these forums.

Majority of the participants think that the talks on charter change is just meant to divert attention from the current leadership problems.

It was also stressed that Muslims have very little understanding, with regards to parliamentary or federal government.

So the call was to bring the information campaign down to the barangay level; and that the consultations must also include the MILF and MNLF.

The latter is very critical in the light of ongoing peace negotiations.

The same sentiment was also reflected in the Sulu Concom.

Unanimous declaration

But in the end, the participants from the ARMM were unanimous in their declaration that the federal form of government would result in better governance for the Bangsamoro.

The Muslims in Marawi recommended the name "Bangsamoro Islamic Federal State."

The general sense across the island was that a parliamentary-federal government is the answer to the Mindanao problem of sustainable peace and development.

This is the system that, they think, will bring about equal treatment and status to people across the country, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, dialect and location.

By getting involved in political and government affairs at the state and local levels, the people of Mindanao will be empowered, rather than appear as mere spectators in the affairs of far-away government institutions in the nation's capital.

At the same time the states will be able to nurture, protect and enhance their regional cultures and institutions and also contribute to national cultural development.

All these will be particularly beneficial for Mindanao, an island very far from the nation's capital and a melting pot of various cultures—the Lumads, Moros and Christian settlers.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; a ConCom member; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao representative to the Export Development Council; chair of the Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. E-mail comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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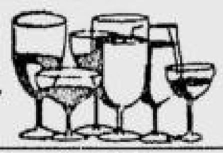

Victor C. Agustin

IT LOOKS LIKE THE BOOGIE NUMBER that Peter Favila did with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo before an appreciative Fil-Am audience during the last US visit is working its charm.

The supervision of the strategic Bases Conversion Development Authority, which controls Clark and Fort Bonifacio redevelopment, has been spun off from the Office of the President to the boyish-looking trade and industry secretary.

The Presidential Management Staff has already issued a memorandum to that effect, preparatory to an executive order from Malacañang that is, according to the grapevine, due to be released shortly.

In addition, the PMS memo signed by then Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao (now ambassador to Greece) also directed BCDA to provide additional funding for the crucial NorthRail project that would provide a rail link to Clark, Manila and the Calabarzon region.

The PMS memo was a direct offshoot of a Nov. 30 decision by the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority to place BCDA under the policy supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry.

At the height of the Hyatt 10 crisis, the President announced that she intended to devolve the day-to-day supervision of key government projects to the Cabinet secretaries, so she could have more time to attend to state functions and to push for charter change.

According to the grapevine, Philippine National Construction Corp., which holds the franchise for the North and South Luzon expressways, and the port devel-

COCKTALES/ B4

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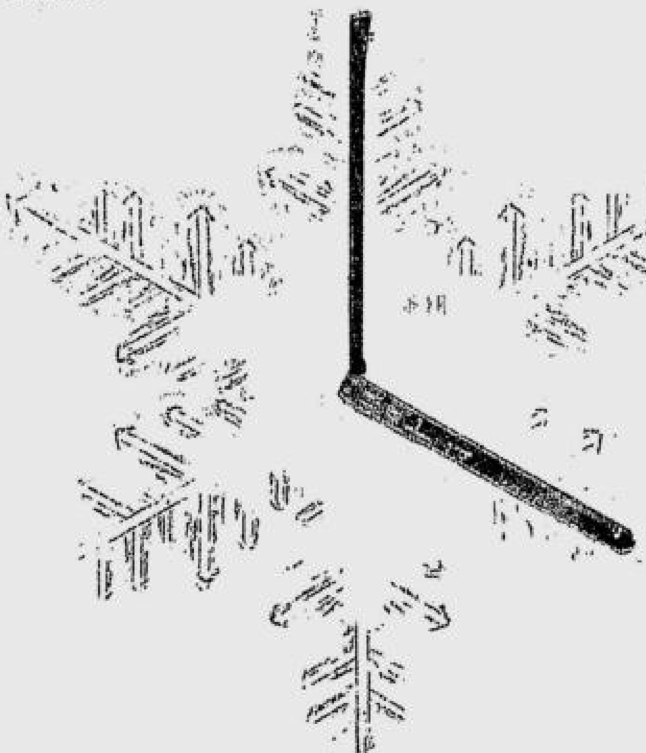

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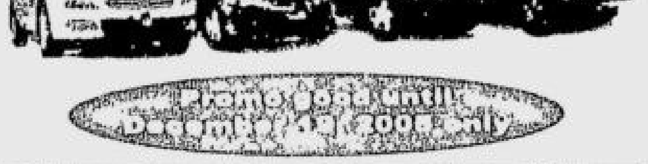

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Kepco, 2 others buy 43.8% of Salcon Power for ₱1.2B

Korean firm to get 40% of Naga plant operator

By Abigail L. Ho

KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORP., THE country's second largest independent power producer, and two other investors have agreed to buy 43.8 percent of listed Salcon Power Corp. for P1.18 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Salcon Power corporate information officer Alfredo Ballesteros said that of the total stake to be purchased, Kepco had agreed to acquire around 40 percent at P1.80 a share, or P1.07 billion.

The 40-percent stake is composed of 597.998 million Salcon Power shares.

The remaining stake will go to Intrepid Holdings Inc. and Jad Holdings Inc., or the IJ Group.

"The transaction remains subject to several conditions, the most important of which is Kephilco's and the IJ Group's compliance with the tender offer requirements of the Securities Regulation Code," Ballesteros said.

"If the transaction does not close by Feb. 21, 2006, the agreement will terminate and cease to be of force and effect, unless otherwise agreed by the parties," he added.

After the purchase, a tender offer will be made and the IJ Group will acquire any shares offered by the public.

In a related transaction, Kephilco entered into a shareholders agreement with Dennis Villareal, the IJ Group and Rayfield Holdings Inc. last Dec. 14 to cover the organization and management of Salcon Power.

Under the agreement, certain parts of Salco Power's were amended, including those pertaining to the composition of the company's board of directors and executive committees.

It also covers certain minimum shareholders' approvals required for specific actions such as budgets and other long-term plans.

"The shareholders agreement also contemplates that (Salcon Power) and Korea Electric Power Corp. will enter into an offshore advisory services agreement pursuant to which Kepco will provide certain advisory services to Salcon Power in relation to the operation and maintenance of the Naga Power Complex currently operated by Salcon Power," Ballesteros said.

Cocktales

From page B3

opment functions of the Philippine Ports Authority would also be placed under DTI control.

Cora conundrum

CORAZON dela Paz has been out of commission for a week now, but that has nothing to do with the SSS president signing a businessmen's petition during the Hyatt 10 crisis asking Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to step down from Malacañang.

Dela Paz survived a life-threatening internal bleeding last week caused by an aneurysm in the colon, prompting doctors in Medical City to cut a substantial chunk of her intestine to ensure her speedy recovery.

The Social Security System chief was lucky to have collapsed not during her frequent overseas flights as president of the International Social Security Association but at the house of a sister in Corinthian Gardens, next door to the hospital.

The long and the short of it is that the former Price Waterhouse partner will be discharged next week, although it is likely that she will take the entire Christmas-New Year break before she reports back to work.

As to her signing the resign-GMA resolution of the Makati Business Club, Dela Paz has apparently come to terms with the President and both have, to use a fashionable phrase these days, moved on.

Dela Paz still has another year to go on to complete her two-year term as ISSA president. After that, who knows? (The smart money is on DBP president Reynaldo David as next SSS president. But that is another story.)

Money-go-round

- ABS-CBN reportedly netted P100 million from its wildly successful Pinoy Big Brother show, and received about one million text messages during the show's final day selection. The not-so-good news is, the PBB pickings are not enough to offset expected continuing revenue declines.
- HSBC sent out what arguably is the best corporate giveaway to select clients this season, the coffee table book of Anita Magsaysay-Ho paintings.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ALLIANCE between Equitable PCIB chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez and SM heiress Teresita Sy has been fractured, after the 8-percent sequestered Romualdez shareholdings switched to the SSS-GSIS government block in their sell-to-highest-bidder attempt.

Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Jobless rate down to 7.4%

From page B1

among major business sectors, hiring 739,000 additional workers in October.

"Within this sector, the wholesale and retail segment contributed the bulk of the increase with 426,000," the NSO said.

Private households employed 93,000 more workers, while hotels and restaurants hired 72,000 more employees. The survey also showed that the sub-sectors of public administration, defense and compulsory social security hired 44,000 additional workers, while the social and personal service subsector displaced 28,000 workers.

The NSO said the farm sector hired 390,000 more workers, while the industrial sector, particularly, the mining and quarrying sub sectors, hired another 6,000 workers in October.

But while the unemployment rate improved, the rate of underemployment worsened. The NSO reported that there were 7 million underemployed Filipinos in October, representing 21.2 percent of the labor force. This was 4.3 percentage points higher than the 16.9 percent recorded in October last year.

Of those seeking additional working hours, 2.7 million were full-time workers while the rest were part-timers.

The NSO said people aged 15 years and above who were not in the labor force—housewives, students, disabled and retired persons—were estimated at 19.3 million, or 35.2 percent of the total population as of October. Of these, 71.4 percent were females and 28.6 percent were males.

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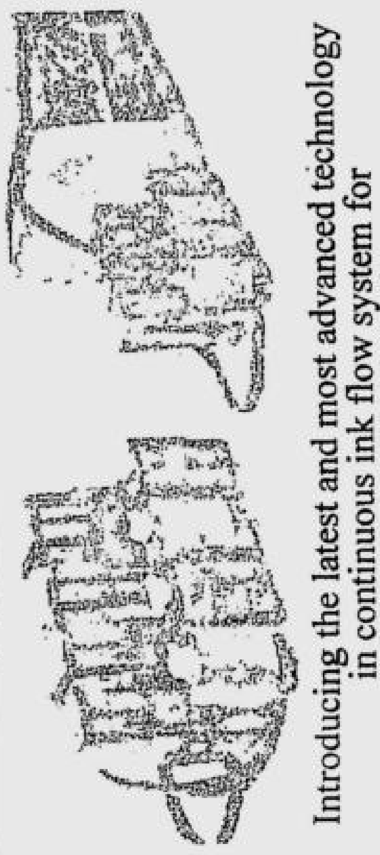

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Development Bank of the Philippines
is pleased to offer to the public the
DBP Unsecured Subordinated Notes due 2015

ISSUE AMOUNT
Up to PhP10 Billion
in up to two tranches

INDICATIVE INTEREST RATE
9.38% to 9.88%

ISSUE DATE
December 22, 2005

MATURITY
10 years
subject to an optional redemption
by the Issuer after 5 years

DENOMINATION
PhP500,000
minimum participation and increments
of PhP100,000 thereafter

OFFER PERIOD
December 14 to 20, 2005

For more information, you may call any of the following Selling Agents:

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First Metro Investment Corporation
A Metrobank Subsidiary
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241-4301 local 227

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The world's local bank
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Land Bank of the Philippines
551-2200 or 522-0000
locals 2543 and 7627

Multinational Investment Bancorporation
817-1611 to 15

Thelma Maceda, Oscar Dimaculangan
Mikael Pasmio, Loren Go-Español
818-0511 locals 3300, 3310, 3312
3313, 2307, 2310
815-1518, 893-5749, 817-6519

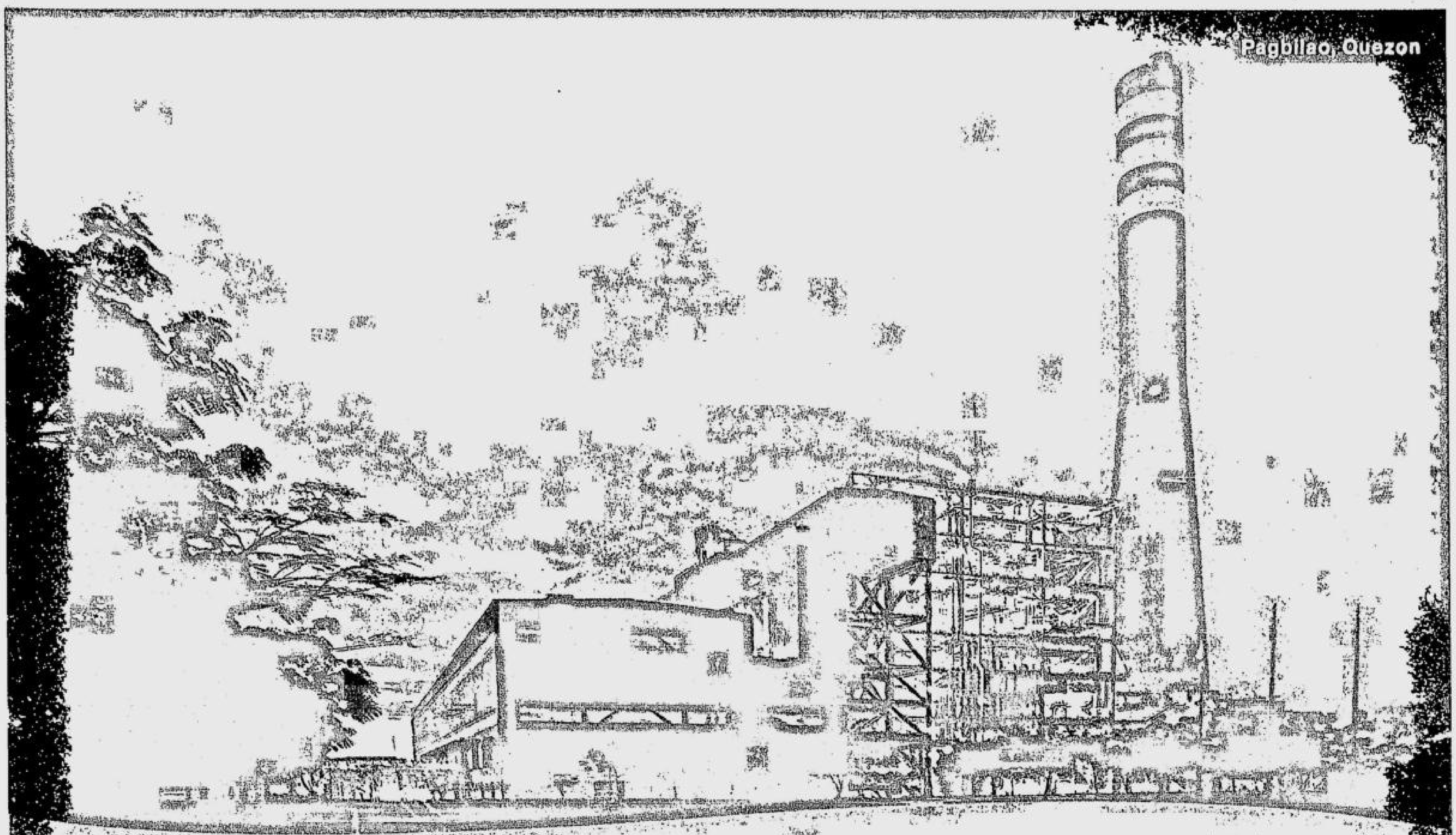
ROADSHOW SCHEDULES:

December 14
Makati City - DBP Social Hall, 10:00 am

December 15
Cagayan de Oro - Grand City Hotel, 2:00 pm
Iloilo - Sarabia Hotel, 2:00 pm
San Fernando, Pampanga - Red Rickshaw Restaurant, 2:00 pm

December 16
Cebu - Waterfront Hotel, 2:00 pm
Baguio City - Hotel Elizabeth, 2:00 pm

December 19
Davao City - Marco Polo Hotel, 10:30 am



MIRANT

COMMITMENT TO THE CALL OF DUTY

It's the commitment that fuels the dedication
of Filipinos to their work anywhere in the world.

This is the dedication that enabled the 800 Filipino men and women
of Pagbilao and Sual Power Stations to achieve unsurpassed milestones
in the fields of Environmental Management and Safety:
ISO 14001 Re-certification and 5 Million Safe Man-hours
without the occurrence of a single Lost Time Accident (LTA).

These are achievements made possible by this Filipino team's commitment
to fulfill its responsibilities and adhere to safety, health, and environmental standards.

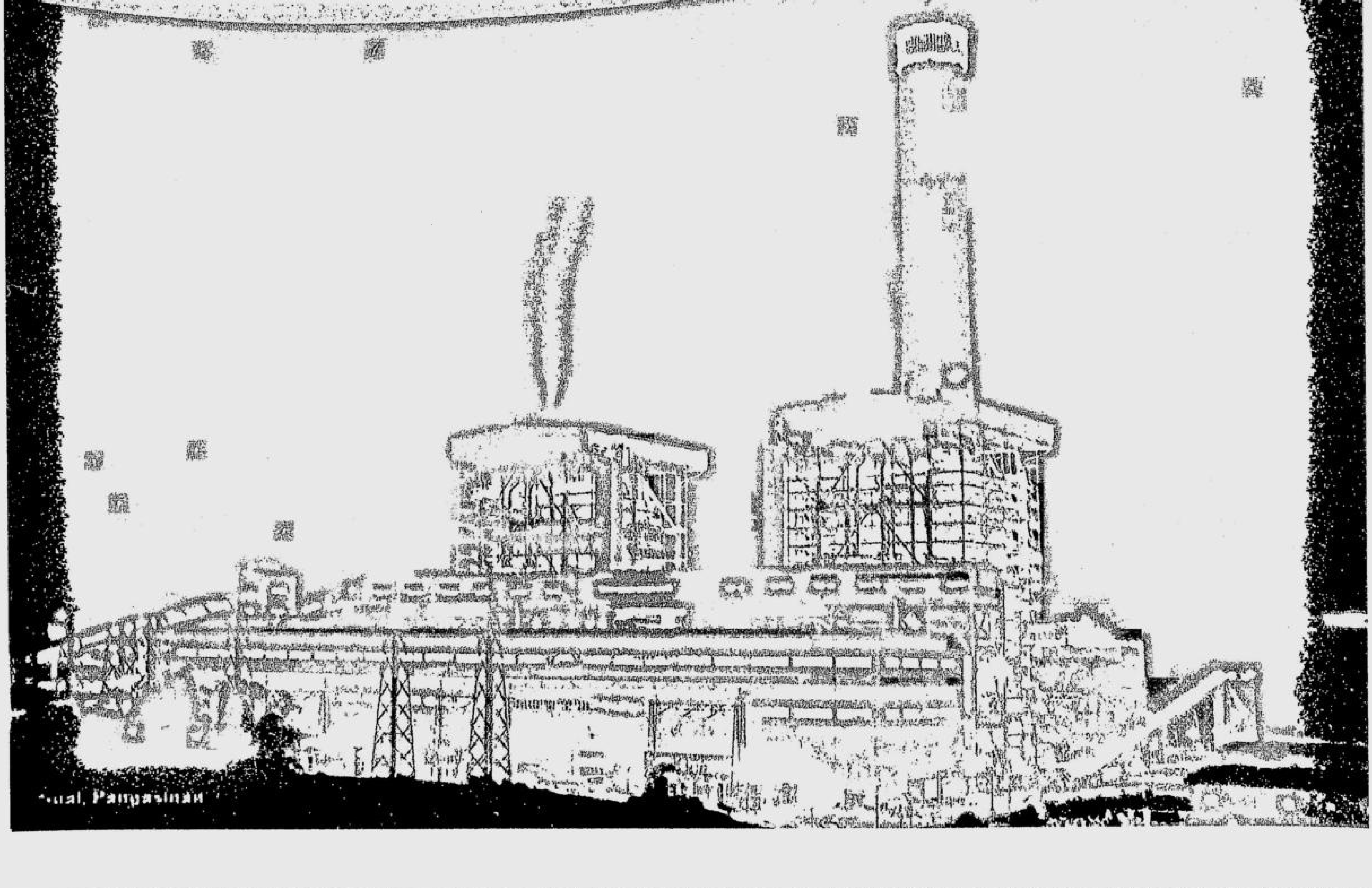
So from dawn to dusk, Mirant Philippines' Pagbilao and Sual Team
ensures to continuously provide reliable, cost-effective, and world-class energy.

COMMITMENT TO THE CALL OF DUTY.
This is the commitment that paves the way
for Mirant Philippines' leadership in power generation.

That is why in the Philippines,
we take pride in having two of the best power plants in the world.

ISO 14001 SYSTEM CERTIFICATION
SGS

CH02/0893 (Pagbilao Power Station)
CH02/0847 (Sual Power Station)



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Dec. 15, 2005)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33	32	33	1,083,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	54.5	54.5	1,545,000
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	360
Citystate Savings Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	650,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	55	55	55	55	81,300
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	32	33	830,100
Philippine National Bank	31.5	32	31.5	32	482,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	32	32.5	32	32	279,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	31-	31	186,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	6,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2110	2115	2105	2110	860
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.25	6,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.89	0.91	1,270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	735	740	119,540
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	121,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.4	3,485,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1790	1790	1770	1775	66,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	1,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	51,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	25,700
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.25	23.25	445,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6,746,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.45	4,268,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	190,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	223,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	304,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	300,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	620,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.25	4.4	4.15	4.4	9,569,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41	42	41	41.5	596,200
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64.5	63.5	64.5	113,400
San Miguel Corp. B	87	87	85.5	86	109,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	325	325	307.5	310	520,180
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	949,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	2,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	359,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.83	0.86	1,100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	21,772,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	8,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	4,712,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	160,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48.5	48.5	48	48.5	1,967,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	1,400,000
House of Investments Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	273,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	384,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	4,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.26	2,856,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	9,850,000
Paxys Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	2,007,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	220,000
SM Investments Corp.	246	246	242	245	63,050
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.98	1	0.97	1	4,720,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	225,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	18,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.5	13.5	13	13.5	281,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	29,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.7	4,661,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	862,000
C&P Homes Inc.	2.12	2.28	2.04	2.14	515,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	2,220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	6,560,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	2,770,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	1,100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2,200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.6	28,420,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	101,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	243,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	71,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	760,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.25	2,970,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	33,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	74,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	45,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	3,127,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.62	7,596,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	55,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	103,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000

Shares close 1.22% lower

From page B1

2,097.25 and 2,059.21. The broader all-shares index fell 13.52 points to 1,259.43.

Volume reached 580.76 million shares worth P1.2 billion, with losers leading gainers at 51 to 21, while 34 stocks finished unchanged.

The peso was trading at 53.217 to the dollar as of mid-day. *AFP*

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC
WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE

Effective January 1, 2006, Manila Water Company will implement a 7.1% CPI Adjustment and a Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of 2.48% of basic charge as approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 05-005-CA dated December 13, 2005 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 205-66 dated December 15, 2005.

The FCDA will be computed quarterly depending on the fluctuations of the exchange rate.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire, covers the following areas:

Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only); **Quezon City** (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Matandang Balara), **Makati City** (east of South Super Highway), **Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig, - all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.**

Manila Water

MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE
Effective January 1, 2006

1. WATER CHARGE (peso per cubic meter)

Tariff effective until December 31, 2005					
RESIDENTIAL		A. BASIC	B. CERA	C. FCDA 3.27% of Basic	TOTAL
First	10 cu.m.	46.88 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	1.53 /Conn.	58.41 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	5.72 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.19 /Cu.m.	6.91 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	10.85 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.35 /Cu.m.	12.20 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	14.28 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.47 /Cu.m.	15.75 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	16.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.55 /Cu.m.	18.24 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	17.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	19.04 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	18.28 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	19.88 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	19.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	20.66 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	19.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	21.47 /Cu.m.
SEMI-BUSINESS					
First	10 cu.m.	78.69 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	2.57 /Conn.	91.26 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	9.58 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.31 /Cu.m.	10.89 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	11.81 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.39 /Cu.m.	13.20 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	15.00 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.49 /Cu.m.	16.49 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	17.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	19.04 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	18.28 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	19.88 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	19.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	20.66 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	19.82 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	21.47 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	20.67 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	22.34 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP I					
First	10 cu.m.	213.05 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	6.97 /Conn.	230.02 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	21.33 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	23.03 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.45 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	23.15 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.51 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	23.21 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.57 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	23.28 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.69 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	23.40 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.75 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	23.46 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.81 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	23.52 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.93 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	23.65 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	21.99 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	23.71 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	22.05 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	23.77 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	22.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	23.90 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	22.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	23.96 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	22.29 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	24.02 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	22.41 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	24.15 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	22.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	24.21 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.53 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	24.27 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.65 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	24.40 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.71 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	24.45 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.78 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	24.52 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.90 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.75 /Cu.m.	24.65 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	22.96 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.75 /Cu.m.	24.71 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.02 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.75 /Cu.m.	24.77 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.14 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	24.90 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.20 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	24.96 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.26 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	25.02 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.32 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	25.08 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.44 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.20 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.50 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.27 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.56 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.33 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.68 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.45 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	23.74 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	25.52 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	23.80 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	25.58 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP II					
First	10 cu.m.	230.52 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	7.54 /Conn.	46.06 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	23.20 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	24.96 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.32 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.76 /Cu.m.	25.08 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.50 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.27 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.68 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.77 /Cu.m.	25.45 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.80 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	25.58 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.98 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.78 /Cu.m.	25.76 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	24.16 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.79 /Cu.m.	25.95 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	24.28 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.79 /Cu.m.	26.08 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	24.46 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.80 /Cu.m.	26.26 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	24.64 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.81 /Cu.m.	26.45 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	24.76 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.81 /Cu.m.	26.57 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	24.94 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.82 /Cu.m.	26.76 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	25.06 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.82 /Cu.m.	26.88 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	25.24 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.83 /Cu.m.	27.07 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	25.43 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.83 /Cu.m.	27.26 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.55 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.84 /Cu.m.	27.38 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.73 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.84 /Cu.m.	27.57 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.85 /Cu.m.	27.76 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.03 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.85 /Cu.m.	27.88 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.21 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.86 /Cu.m.	28.07 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.86 /Cu.m.	28.25 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.51 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.87 /Cu.m.	28.38 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.63 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.87 /Cu.m.	28.50 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.87 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.88 /Cu.m.	28.75 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	26.99 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.88 /Cu.m.	28.88 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.89 /Cu.m.	29.06 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.29 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.89 /Cu.m.	29.18 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.47 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.90 /Cu.m.	29.37 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.65 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.90 /Cu.m.	29.55 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.78 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.91 /Cu.m.	29.69 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.96 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.91 /Cu.m.	29.87 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	28.14 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.92 /Cu.m.	30.06 /Cu.m.

Tariff effective January 1, 2006					
RESIDENTIAL		A. BASIC	B. CERA	C. FCDA 2.48% of Basic	TOTAL
First	10 cu.m.	50.20 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	1.25 /Conn.	61.45 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	6.13 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.15 /Cu.m.	7.28 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	11.62 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.28 /Cu.m.	12.90 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	15.29 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.38 /Cu.m.	16.67 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	17.87 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.44 /Cu.m.	19.32 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	18.71 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.46 /Cu.m.	20.18 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	19.55 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.49 /Cu.m.	21.04 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	20.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.51 /Cu.m.	21.90 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	21.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.53 /Cu.m.	22.76 /Cu.m.
SEMI-BUSINESS					
First	10 cu.m.	84.28 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	2.09 /Conn.	96.37 /Conn.
Next	10 cu.m.	10.26 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.25 /Cu.m.	11.51 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	12.65 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.31 /Cu.m.	13.96 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	16.07 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.40 /Cu.m.	17.47 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	18.71 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.46 /Cu.m.	20.18 /Cu.m.
Next	20 cu.m.	19.55 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.49 /Cu.m.	21.04 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	20.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.51 /Cu.m.	21.90 /Cu.m.
Next	50 cu.m.	21.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.53 /Cu.m.	22.76 /Cu.m.
Over	200 cu.m.	22.13 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.55 /Cu.m.	23.68 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP I					
First	10 cu.m.	228.18 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	5.66 /Conn.	243.84 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	22.84 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	24.41 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	22.97 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	24.54 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	24.61 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.10 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.57 /Cu.m.	24.67 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	24.81 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.30 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	24.87 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.36 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	24.94 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.49 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	25.07 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.55 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.58 /Cu.m.	25.14 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	23.62 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.59 /Cu.m.	25.20 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	23.75 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.59 /Cu.m.	25.34 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	23.81 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.59 /Cu.m.	25.40 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	23.88 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.59 /Cu.m.	25.47 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	24.01 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	25.61 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	24.07 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	25.67 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.13 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	25.73 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.26 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	25.86 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.33 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	25.93 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.60 /Cu.m.	26.00 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.52 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.61 /Cu.m.	26.13 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.59 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.61 /Cu.m.	26.20 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.65 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.61 /Cu.m.	26.26 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.78 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.61 /Cu.m.	26.39 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.84 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.46 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.53 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	24.97 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.59 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.10 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.72 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.79 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	26.86 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.36 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	26.99 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	25.42 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	27.05 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	25.49 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	27.12 /Cu.m.
BUSINESS GROUP II					
First	10 cu.m.	246.89 /Conn.	10.00 /Conn.*	6.12 /Conn.	263.01 /Conn.
Next	90 cu.m.	24.84 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.46 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	24.97 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.59 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	25.17 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.62 /Cu.m.	26.79 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	25.36 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	26.99 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	25.49 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.63 /Cu.m.	27.12 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	25.68 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	27.32 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	25.88 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	27.52 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	26.01 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.64 /Cu.m.	27.65 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	26.20 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	27.85 /Cu.m.
Next	100 cu.m.	26.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.65 /Cu.m.	28.05 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	26.52 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	28.18 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	26.72 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.66 /Cu.m.	28.38 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	26.84 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.67 /Cu.m.	28.51 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	27.04 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.67 /Cu.m.	28.71 /Cu.m.
Next	200 cu.m.	27.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	28.91 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.36 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	29.04 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.55 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.68 /Cu.m.	29.24 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.75 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	29.44 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	27.88 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.69 /Cu.m.	29.57 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.07 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	29.77 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.26 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	29.96 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.39 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.70 /Cu.m.	30.10 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.59 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	30.30 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.78 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.71 /Cu.m.	30.49 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	28.91 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	30.63 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.10 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	30.82 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.23 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.72 /Cu.m.	30.95 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.43 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	31.16 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.62 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.73 /Cu.m.	31.35 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.75 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	31.49 /Cu.m.
Next	500 cu.m.	29.94 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.74 /Cu.m.	31.68 /Cu.m.
Over	10000 cu.m.	30.14 /Cu.m.	1.00 /Cu.m.	0.75 /Cu.m.	31.89 /Cu.m.

* Shall be subject to actual consumption of P1.00 per cubic meter if consumption is below ten (10) cubic meters.

2. A. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE (EC)
10% of Water Charge

B. SEWERAGE CHARGE (SC)
50% of the Water Charge for all customers connected to the MWCI sewerlines

3. MAINTENANCE SERVICE CHARGE (MSC)

Meter Size	Amount (Peso/conn)
1/2" or 13mm	1.50
3/4" or 20mm	2.00
1" or 25mm	3.00
1 1/4" or 40mm	4.00
2" or 50mm	8.00
3" or 75mm	10.00
4" or 100mm	20.00
6" or 150mm	35.00
8" or 200mm	50.00

4. VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) 10% for the Charges 1, 2 and 3

THE MONTHLY BILL IS THE SUM OF 1, 2, 3 AND 4.

ANTONINO T. AQUINO
MWCI - President

Approved by:

ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
MWSS Administrator

EDUARDO C. SANTOS
MWSS-RO Chief Regulator

For further inquiries you may call Manila Water Company Hotline at 1627 or visit www.manilawater.com

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Manila Water

NOTICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS

Water tariff rates to increase due to the following

- Increase in the Consumer Price Index of 7.1% as of July 2005 based on official statistics of the National Statistics Office (NSO)

Effect of the recent gains of the Philippine peso versus the US dollar

- The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) is a mechanism that accounts for the fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate.
- The FCDA will reflect a decrease from P0.46 to **P0.37** effective January 2006, a reflection of the recent strength of the peso vs. the US$.

Minimal increase in the water tariff rates

- The rate increase will only be a moderate 56 centavos per day for average residential customers consuming 1 cu.m. per day or 30 cu.m. per month. For low-income residential customers consuming 10 cu.m. per month, the increase will be 12 centavos per day.

Manila Water's significant accomplishments

- Rehabilitated and expanded more than 1250 kilometers of pipelines since 1997.
- Reduced system losses and recovered nearly 350,000 cubic meters of water a day.
- Increased the volume of potable water delivered to customers to more than 850 million liters per day.
- Provided water service to more than 2 million people since privatization, more than 840,000 of whom are from low-income communities.

Commitment to sustainable development and excellent customer service

- Manila Water will invest P19B over the next five years to lay new lines for Taguig, Antipolo, Cainta, Taytay, San Mateo, Rodriguez and other adjacent municipalities.
- Rehabilitation and modernization of existing water distribution network including supply lines to schools, hospitals, markets and other service institutions.
- Exceed water quality standards set by the Department of Health (DOH).
- Commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

For further inquiries, please call the Manila Water Company Hotline at 1627

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Gift Certificate Treat

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for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5877 Series of 2005
acer
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PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Dec. 13, 2005	Last Week Dec. 06, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.31552	1.31764
Managed Fund - Peso	1.43771	1.43942
Growth Fund - Peso	1.11080	1.11477
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1899	1.1880

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	Dec. 12, 2005	Dec. 5, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.084527	1.084890
Balanced Fund	1.073724	1.075785
Equity Fund	1.048397	1.055951

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-1011. Series of 2005

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9th Avenue-Grace Park
España-Blumentritt
Ortigas Avenue-Greenhills
Big R-Novaliches
New Sta. Lucia East-Cainta
IBM Plaza-Libis
M. De Santos-Ilaya
A. Linao Paco
MC Home Depot-Fort Bonifacio
Metro Point Mall-Pasay

LUZON

Balintawak St.-Laoag
Abanao Square-Baguio
Fernandez-Dagupan
Miranda-Angeles
Santiago-Isabela
F. Tañedo-Tarlac
Zamora-Meycauayan
San Agustin-San Fernando
Olongapo-Rizal Avenue
Sanciangco-Cabanatuan
Tierra Nueva-Alabang
Villa Mendoza-A. Santos
Binakayan-Kawit
Aguinaldo Highway-Dasmariñas
Waltermart-Sta. Rosa
Rizal St.-Legaspi
Gen. Luna-Naga
CM Recto-Lipa
North Calamba-Crossing
Kumintang-Batangas
Quezon Ave.-Lucena

VISAYAS

Osmeña Blvd.-Cebu
Cebu-Ayala
Taboan-Cebu
North-Mandaue
Burgos-Ormoc
Goldenfield-Bacolod
Iloilo-Quezon St.

MINDANAO

Vamenta-Cagayan De Oro
CM Recto-Davao
Sta. Ana-Davao
Santiago St.-General Santos

BRANCHES OPEN ON DECEMBER 30
Banking Hours: 9am - 12nn

METRO MANILA

Karuhatan-McArthur Highway
T. Morato-Kamuning
Shangrila Plaza Mall-EDSA
SM City-Fairview
Greenhills Shopping Center
Robinson's Galleria-Ortigas
Robinson's Metro East-Cainta
Taytay National Highway
M. De Santos-Ilaya
Waltermart-Makati

LUZON

Castro-Laoag
Session Road-Baguio
Perez-Dagupan
Bonifacio St.-Tuguegarao
Nepo Mart-Angeles
Cauayan-Isabela
Pulilan Junction-Bulacan
Dolores-Pampanga
Times Square-Subic
Maharlika-Cabanatuan
Imus Aguinaldo-Highway
Doña Manuela 5-Las Piñas
Rustan's Laguna-Technopark
FCIE Dasmariñas-Cavite
M. Belen-Silang
Caceres-Naga
San Juan-Virac
Rizal Ave.-Puerto Princesa
Rizal St.-San Pablo
P. Burgos-Batangas City
Lipa-Rotonda
Candelaria-Rizal St.

VISAYAS

F. Gonzales-Cebu
MEZ II-Lapulapu
Banilad-Cebu
Salazar-Tacloban
Lacson-Bacolod
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CURRENCIES

December 15, 2005 Country.	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.832917	1.000000	53.5450
Japan	Yen	0.007100	0.008524	0.4564
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477095	1.773400	94.9567
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107429	0.128979	6.9062
Switzerland	Franc	0.649752	0.780092	41.7700
Canada	Dollar	0.722767	0.867754	46.4639
Singapore	Dollar	0.498812	0.598874	32.0667
Australia	Dollar	0.629948	0.756315	40.4969
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.209915	2.653224	142.0669
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222099	0.266652	14.2779
Brunei	Dollar	0.497323	0.597086	31.9710
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000102	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020315	0.024390	1.3060
UAE	Dirham	0.226773	0.272264	14.5784
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.200600	64.2861
Argentina	Peso	0.278103	0.333890	17.8781
Brazil	REAL	0.365107	0.438347	23.4713
Denmark	Kroner	0.134220	0.161145	8.6285
India	Rupee	0.018246	0.021906	1.1730
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220465	0.264690	14.1728
Mexico	New Peso	0.077650	0.093227	4.9918
New Zealand	Dollar	0.588301	0.706314	37.8196
Norway	Kroner	0.125592	0.150786	8.0738
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013940	0.016736	0.8961
South Africa	Rand	0.132630	0.159236	8.5263
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.000990	0.0530
Sweden	Kroner	0.105997	0.127260	6.8141
Syria	Pound	0.016045	0.019264	1.0315
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024999	0.030014	1.6071
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000466	0.0250

Landbank expects agriculture loans to reach P78B in 2006

Agreement with China seen to result in higher loan exposure

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES next year expects to lend no less than P78 billion to companies venturing in the export of agricultural commodities.

With the country's inclusion to the Early Harvest Program of China, Filipino exporters of food products are expected to do well as early as the first quarter of 2006, according to Land Bank president and chief executive officer Gilda E. Pico.

"Our participation in the Early Harvest Program of China would mean more production loan requirements for fresh and processed fruit and vegetable exports," Pico yesterday said. "We are also focusing the bank's resources on new and renewable energy, water and environment-related projects.

The trade agreement with China will result in higher exports of fresh produce, including coconut, mango and seaweeds, the Department of Agriculture earlier said.

Pico said that the agriculture producers would add to the bank's traditional clientele comprised of local government units and overseas Filipino workers.

"Our loan exposure to these market segments will not be lower than 65 percent of the total loan portfolio currently placed at P119 billion," Pico said.

As of October this year, the state-owned bank posted a net income of P2.6 billion, exceeding its P2.5 billion target for the year on the back of higher returns on its loans and investment portfolio.

Land Bank released P13.3 billion in credit assistance to small farmers and fisher folk as of end-October this year, representing 83 percent of the Bank's target of P16 billion for 2005.

The amount, according to the bank's records, benefited 279,000 small farmers and fisher folk nationwide and was channeled through 992 cooperatives, 393 countryside financial institutions and Quedancor.

The Land Bank extended P72.6 million in loans to 75 cooperative borrowers from January to October this year.

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Gokongweis hope to raise $200M from stock offer

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOKONGWEI GROUP IS EXPECTED TO raise roughly $200 million from the sale of shares in snacks and beverage brand Universal Robina Corp. and property firm Robinsons Land Corp. next year.

According to industry sources, the exercise will increase the public floats of URC and RLC to 40 percent from currently a little over 10 percent.

To evaluate its options to boost liquidity in its shares, RLC has tapped Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. to act as its financial adviser.

URC for its part has tapped UBS Investment Bank as its underwriter for a possible international offering.

In documents submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission Wednesday, URC said it would sell up to 634.78 million shares to fund the expansion of its food and beverage line in the Asian region.

URC hopes to raise P5.5 billion from the sale of 282.4 million new shares and 352.4 million shares of selling shareholders JG Summit Holdings, Express Holdings Inc., Robinsons Supermarket Corp. and Arisaig.

The offer price may be either plus or minus 10 percent from the prevailing market price of the shares.

URC closed at P18.25 yesterday while RLC closed at P5.70 a share.

RLC hopes to sell around $100 million worth of shares to increase its free float.

RLC earlier submitted a bid of P563 million to buy the government's Manila Gas property. The bid was lower than the indicative price of P637 million.

But the RLC offer beat Community Innovations Inc., a unit of the Ayala Land Inc., which offered to buy the property in Paco, Manila for just P86 million.

JG Summit Holdings president Lance Gokongwei earlier said URC would use the bulk of the proceeds from a possible share offering in January to push production for its fast growing "C2" bottled green-tea based brand.

FirstGen seen to hold IPO in February

FIRST GEN CORP., THE HOLDING COMPANY of the Lopez Group's power generation assets, has received the green light from the board of the Philippine Stock Exchange to proceed with its planned initial public offering sometime February, PSE president Francis Lim told reporters yesterday.

Based on documents submitted to the PSE, FirstGen will offer to the public a minimum of 275.5 million to 360.9 million common shares to be sold at a range of P51 to P74 each.

FirstGen expects to raise P11.2 billion in gross proceeds from the primary IPO, of which P10.7 billion will represent net proceeds.

A portion of the net proceeds will be used to fund its future projects, including its plan to bid for electric plants to be sold by state-owned National Power Corp.

FirstGen will include in its IPO a mix of primary and secondary shares. The secondary shares will range from 124 to 141 million shares, while primary shares will number between 151.5 million to 219.93 million shares.

FirstGen said it has set a tentative timetable for the offering. Its international roadshow offering will begin on Jan. 16 and end on Jan. 26, 2006. Its domestic offering date is tentatively scheduled between January and February.

The IPO, along with the secondary offer, will give the investing public ownership of 25.5 to 33.7 percent in FirstGen, another utility firm of the Lopez clan. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

RP LEADERSHIP IN IT
Trade and Industry Undersecretary Carissa P. Cruz shakes hands with Microsoft chair Bill Gates at the Asian Microsoft Government Leaders Forum last Dec. 5 to 7 in New Delhi, India.

Bangko Sentral keeps key policy rates unchanged

Favorable environment provides stabilizing influence

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SOFTENING GLOBAL OIL prices, the strengthening of the peso and a good harvest this season allowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to keep its overnight rates unchanged during its last policy rate setting for the year yesterday.

The Monetary Board kept the BSP's overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9.75 percent, their highest levels in three years.

The key policy rates were last increased by 25 basis points last October.

In a press briefing after the board meeting yesterday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board also considered the recent slowdown in domestic liquidity as well as the easing of core inflation in deciding to keep the policy rates steady.

"The balance of economic evidence supports an unchanged policy setting. The current combination of generally favorable supply-side and demand-side pressures should provide a stabilizing influence on inflation expectations in the near term," Tetangco said.

"The previous monetary tightening should also be allowed to run its course and impact on both liquidity growth and inflation expectations," he said.

The BSP has tightened the overnight rates by a total of 75 basis points this year—in April, September and October. It also raised the reserve requirement imposed on banks by 2 percentage points in July to siphon off excess liquidity.

Tetangco said the BSP would continue to watch out for risks to inflation.

"Global energy prices may surge again and create uncertainty in the inflation outlook given limited global surplus production capacity," Tetangco said.

"Potential shifts in the public's inflation expectations may also become a risk given the relatively high level of inflation relative to government target. For the same reason, the MB views the possibility of second-round effects and the continued presence of ample liquidity in the financial system as potential risks to the inflation outlook," he said.

Analysts said it helped that the US Federal Reserve was at the tail-end of its interest rate hikes.

GMA 7 expects '06 profit to exceed ₱2B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GMA NETWORK INC. EXPECTS its international operations to boost its 2006 earnings to more than P2 billion.

GMA's international channel, GMA Pinoy TV, was launched last July 23 in San Francisco, USA.

GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon yesterday said the international channel has now around 50,000 subscribers in the USA.

Only two days after the launching of the channel, GMA Pinoy TV already had thousands of subscribers in the Bay Area which, according to US cable carrier Comcast, broke the records for ethnic programs.

GMA Pinoy TV is also available in Japan and Guam.

For this year, Gozon said GMA 7 would likely hit P2 billion in net income on the back of airtime revenue of P9.4 billion and operating expenses of less than P7 billion. The network earned P1.5 billion in 2004.

The network is enhancing its multi-media access via its website igma.tv, inq7.net and the recent launch of sister station QTV—or Quality Television. It also has gone interactive via Fanatxt and Txtube this year. It introduced Groupee and IMGroupee, which are social networking technologies that provide an instant messenger service.

In the fourth quarter, GMA 7 is seen suffering from a dramatic drop in earnings and will likely post its lowest quarterly profit this year on the back of an industry-wide decline in advertising revenue, Gozon had said.

"The sustained growth in sales and corresponding jump in profits in the fourth quarter that we were expecting didn't happen," Gozon had said. "But I believe this is happening to the entire industry, and is not unique to us."

Advertisers, he said, appeared to have front-loaded their budget for the broadcast media. Thus, GMA 7 sales and profits for the first three quarters were robust.

Gozon last month said that the profit from January to September stood at about P1.74 billion, or 58 percent higher than the P1.09 billion posted in the same period last year. This meant that the network was only P260 million shy of its P2-billion target.

HGC beefing up capital

HOME GUARANTY CORP. SAID it had accumulated P7.9 billion in funds since 2001 through aggressive efforts to beef up its capital.

HGC president Gonzalo Bongolan said the amount included P5.8 billion raised through bond flotation, P1.04 billion earned from guaranty fees, P444.43 million from asset management and disposition, P331.32 from other collections, and P303.14 million from treasury and trading operations.

Bongolan said the capital build-up was in line with the policy of Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chief Noli de Castro to encourage private sector participation in government housing programs.

HGC provides guarantee cover for financial institutions lending to socialized and low-cost housing projects.

Although the government sets aside funds for housing programs, private sector participation is needed to avoid draining public funds.

HGC earlier reported a 325-percent rise in new guaranty enrollments in 2003, hitting an all-time high of P20.7 billion.

He said some 56 percent of all universal banks operating in the country today were now HGC guaranteed clients.

Hyundai president visits RP

HYUNDAI MOTOR Co. president Choi Jae Kook recently visited the Philippines to reinforce the company's commitment to continue doing business in the country.

The Korean firm does business in the country through Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.

During his visit, the Hyundai chief turned over to the Philippine Military Academy a donation of eight brand-new 45-seater aero buses.

This was in line with Hyundai's corporate mission-- Innovation for Humanity, which fosters active participation in social reforms on a global scale.

"We are happy with the collaboration going on between Korea and the Philippines in trade, labor, infrastructure, communications, technology, shipping and a number of other fields," Choi said in his speech.

In the Philippines, Hyundai entered the automotive industry in 2001 through Hari. Beginning with only four dealerships, Hari now has a dealership network of 18 in key cities and provinces all over the Philippines. It plans to add 8 more in 2006.

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Pamaskong Handog sa OFWs 2005

'Pasko'y Maligaya, Pamilya'y Sama-Sama'

Christmas is in December and December in the Philippines is the month of overseas Filipino workers.

For the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the month is steeped in tradition. The government's lead welfare service institution for migrant workers focuses itself this month of the year to pay extra-attention to vacationing OFWs and their families. December is special for OFWs are special to the OWWA.

In December, the OWWA comes all out for OFWs through its traditional annual 'Pamaskong Handog sa OFWs,' now on its 12th year of being implemented.

"Christmas for OWWA officials and employees is not complete without the OFWs," says Marianito D. Roque, the amiable OWWA administrator.

"Thus, we ready ourselves to implement programs, services and activities in observance of the annual 'Pamaskong Handog' tradition," he explained.

Its all systems go as far as the OWWA's yearly tribute to OFWs returning home for Christmas is concerned. Just like last year, a one-month program that will start on December 16 and end on January 15, 2006 has been readied and fine-tuned.

This year's 'Pamaskong Handog' will be highlighted once again by programs and activities that Roque said will contribute to making returning OFWs Christmas celebration merry and meaningful. Of course, delivery of OWWA services would be at the heart of the traditional celebration.

Expanded Workers Assistance Services

The OWWA is rolling out the red carpet at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Terminals 1 & 2) and Cebu and Clark International Airports to welcome vacationing OFWs through its expanded workers assistance services to be provided by officers at OWWA arrival counters from December 16 to 31, and to departing workers at the OWWA pre-departure lounge from January 1 to 15, 2006.

A 'Pamaskong Papremyo' or Pick-a-Gift Promo for arriving OFWs is an attraction that the counters will feature.

Because the airport is very busy during December, Roque said the OWWA is augmenting its regular complement of workers assistance officers (WAOs) who will be on duty in three shifts from the first flight on December 15 to the last scheduled flight on December 31.

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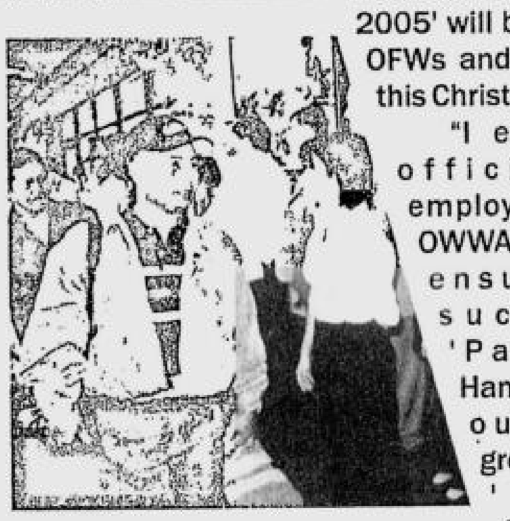
Satellite counters

The OWWA is once again extending its services to the malls during the 'Pamasko', inspired by the positive feedback on previous years' provision of service lanes providing various OWWA services to vacationing OFWs.

It will put up satellite counters/kiosks inside Robinson's Galleria, Fiesta Duty Free, and selected shopping malls in Cebu, Iloilo, and San Fernando, Pampanga.

At these counters/kiosks, OFWs can transact official OWWA business such as renewing memberships and processing of Overseas Employment Certificates (OECs). These counters will also offer POEA and PhilHealth services.



Presidential Welcome: 'Pamaskong Salubong'

The traditional Presidential Welcome is one of the more colorful highlights of the 'Pamaskong Handog.'

Just like last year, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will lead select government officials in welcoming at the NAIA a batch of OFWs two or three days before Christmas. This gesture is symbolic of the sincere appreciation of the highest official of the land to the great contributions of OFWs to nation-building.

At the 'Pamaskong Salubong' the President and heads of agencies concerned with migrant workers will hand out surprise gifts to four lucky OFWs arriving on various flights. One of the prizes is a Nokia mobile store.

OFW Family Day

A regular component of the 'Pamaskong Handog' is the OFW Family Day, a community-based OFW gathering that the OWWA leads nationwide.

The OFW Family Day is a day-long celebration complete with entertainment, raffle, and gift-giving. This year's OFW Family Day has a special feature, the 'OWWAish Ko Lang.'

The OWWA, aware that not all OFWs who ventured abroad are blessed with success, has decided to reach out to unfortunate OFWs by giving them gifts that would bring them cheer this Christmas.

Under the project, a lucky family from each region across the country will receive a gift package of Christmas goodies and a livelihood project. All 17 OWWA regional offices will select a deserving recipient in their respective region. OWWA will invite the President to participate in the gift-giving at a region or regions of her choice.

'Pasko'y Maligaya, Pamilya'y Sama-Sama'

The OWWA is excited and optimistic that 'Pamaskong Handog 2005' will bring cheer to OFWs and the families this Christmas.

"I encourage all officials and employees of the OWWA to join me in ensuring the success of 'Pamaskong Handog'. This is our way of greeting them a 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" in this season of forgiveness, joy and peace," Roque said.

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Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
OWWA Center Building, F.B. Harrison corner 7th Streets, Pasay City, P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines 1300
Telephones: 891-7601 to 24; Facsimile: 833-0187
SMS: 0917-TXT-OWWA or 0917-898-6992
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Global economy seen growing in '06 despite high energy prices

NEW YORK—THE WORLD ECONOMY has broadly withstood a steady two-year rise in oil prices, but despite a slowdown reaching virtually every economic region in 2005 it is expected to continue expanding in 2006, with Asia and North America at the forefront.

The world's gross domestic product increased an estimated 3.2 percent in 2005, down from 3.8 percent last year, according to the World Bank.

Growth is expected to be stable in 2006, before strengthening somewhat in 2007.

"High oil prices cut into the income of oil importers, but the expansion remained strong, partly because of favorable conditions in financial markets, including still low inflation (and) interest rates ... ," the bank said in a November report called "Prospects for the Global Economy."

Pitfalls, however, remain.

In its updated outlook last month, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said the world's 30 industrialized economies have "skated" and "sailed" through oil and hurricane shocks and are set for overall growth of 2.7 this year and 2.9 percent in 2006.

The Paris-based global economic think tank predicted that the 12-nation euro zone is to set to enjoy a "moderate recovery," lifting its growth forecast to 1.4 percent this year and 2.1 percent in 2006.

Asian economies should continue to show solid growth in 2006 and China will likely let its currency, the yuan, appreciate further to tackle problems caused by its current account surplus.

Many US companies contend that China intentionally keeps the value of its currency low to give its exporters an artificial price advantage, contributing to the huge American trade deficit with China, which rose to $162 billion in 2004.

The deficit was expected to hit $200 billion in 2005.

The International Monetary Fund projects GDP growth for the world's advanced economies in Asia, Europe and North America at 2.5 percent in 2005 and 2.7 percent next year.

But "high and volatile oil prices remain a significant global risk," particularly in the event of a disruption in oil supply.

Oil prices briefly surged to an all-time high of $70.85 a barrel on Aug. 30, after Hurricane Katrina battered the US Gulf Coast. They have moderated since then and are now trading around $60 a barrel.

The energy shock has put big money into the hands of oil-exporting nations.

In the world's developing economies, growth remained "very robust," at an estimated 5.9 percent in 2005 and 5.7 percent in 2006, the World Bank predicted. *AP*

Poor nations flex muscles at key WTO discussions

African, Latin American exporters leading charge

HONG KONG—Global trade talks were Thursday confronted with growing pressure from poorer countries, with African cotton producers and Latin American banana exporters leading the charge for fairer treatment.

World Trade Organization ministers held a third day of talks in Hong Kong following sharp criticism late Wednesday of the United States and the European Union over cotton subsidies and banana tariffs.

The conflicts threaten the outcome of the six-day gathering, which the WTO hopes will yield an agreement laying the groundwork for a sweeping multilateral accord on tearing down trade barriers to be signed by the end of 2006.

The group of least developed countries in the WTO predicted in a statement that "day three is likely to see a hardening of positions unless developed countries begin to offer tangible concessions."

And in a surprisingly sharp comment, World Bank Vice President Danny Leipziger said: "The major trading economies of the developed world are keeping the big issues off the table, and as long as that happens, the poor will suffer."

Developed and developing countries have so far found little common ground on how to eliminate agricultural subsidies and reduce import tariffs.

MAKE TRADE FAIR

WITH LITTLE prospect of a Hong Kong breakthrough in their row over market access for farm goods, the 149 WTO member states have focused on wrapping up a trade support package for poor nations. REUTERS/Bobby Yip

Government assistance to farmers in the developed world and steep import duties are seen as barriers to free trade, punishing farmers in poor countries and crippling their ability to compete on global markets.

African cotton producers warned they would refuse to endorse any consensus that might emerge in Hong Kong if rich countries failed to commit themselves to reducing official cotton subsidies.

African producers are seeking the abolition of official assistance for cotton exports—notably by the United States—from Jan. 1.

In a plenary session Wednesday, WTO ministers heard impassioned pleas from west African delegates for prompt action against subsidies in the developed world.

Latin American nations on Wednesday called on the conference to condemn the European Union's new tariff plan for bananas, saying it violated rules of global commerce. *AFP*

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Asian marts close mixed

SINGAPORE—THE DOLLAR edged lower against the yen on Thursday, extending its sharp decline following the record US trade deficit and hurting shares of Japanese exporters such as Honda Motor Co.

Tokyo's Nikkei ended down 1.36 percent, after dropping 2 percent on Wednesday, but most of Asia's other big share markets were marginally higher, and MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares was up 0.1 percent yesterday afternoon.

In Tokyo, shares of Honda fell 2.5 percent and Toyota Motor Corp. was off 2.2 percent. Other exporters also lost some ground, with entertainment and electronics giant Sony Corp. down 1.4 percent and Canon Inc., the world's top maker of cameras and copiers, 1.9 percent lower.

A weaker dollar tends to hurt Asian exporters because it makes their products less competitive overseas and reduces the value of their dollar-denominated sales.

Falling gold prices also hit metals stocks such as Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd., which lost 5.3 percent.

The dollar was fetching around 117.24 yen yesterday afternoon, down slightly from around 117.40 in late New York trade on Wednesday.

The US currency had fallen as far as 116.71 yen, a 1-month low, according to electronic trading platform EBS.

South Korea's benchmark index rose 0.3 percent to a record close, despite a 4.9 percent slump in shares of LG Philips LCD Co. Ltd. after Philips Electronics said it had reduced its stake in the world's second-biggest flat panel maker.

.The Seoul market has raced to a series of all-time highs in recent weeks.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.5 percent and Singapore's Straits Times index gained 0.1 percent.

Taiwan's benchmark index closed up 0.4 percent and Australia's S&P ASX 200 ended 0.2 percent higher. *Reuters*

Qantas gets new planes

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—AUSTRALIAN flag-carrier Qantas has ordered 45 Boeing 787 passenger jets and said it might order as many as 70 more in a multibillion-dollar deal to renew its fleet.

"This is a very, very big commitment by Qantas to growth," Qantas Airways Ltd. chief executive Geoff Dixon told, saying Qantas had negotiated "an extremely competitive contract" with Boeing.

Boeing's list price for the 787 is $130 million (euro 108 million), making 45 planes worth $5.85 billion (euro 4.9 billion).

The Chicago-based company, which does not count options or purchase agreements toward the list-price value of its plane orders, said it was finalizing an agreement for 45 planes, with options for 20 more, plus purchase rights for an additional 50.

Qantas will start taking delivery of the 787s in 2008, the company said in a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange.

"Our relationship with Qantas dates to the very start of the jet age, and we're thrilled to see that relationship continue with the 787," Alan R. Mulally, president and chief executive of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said in the statement.

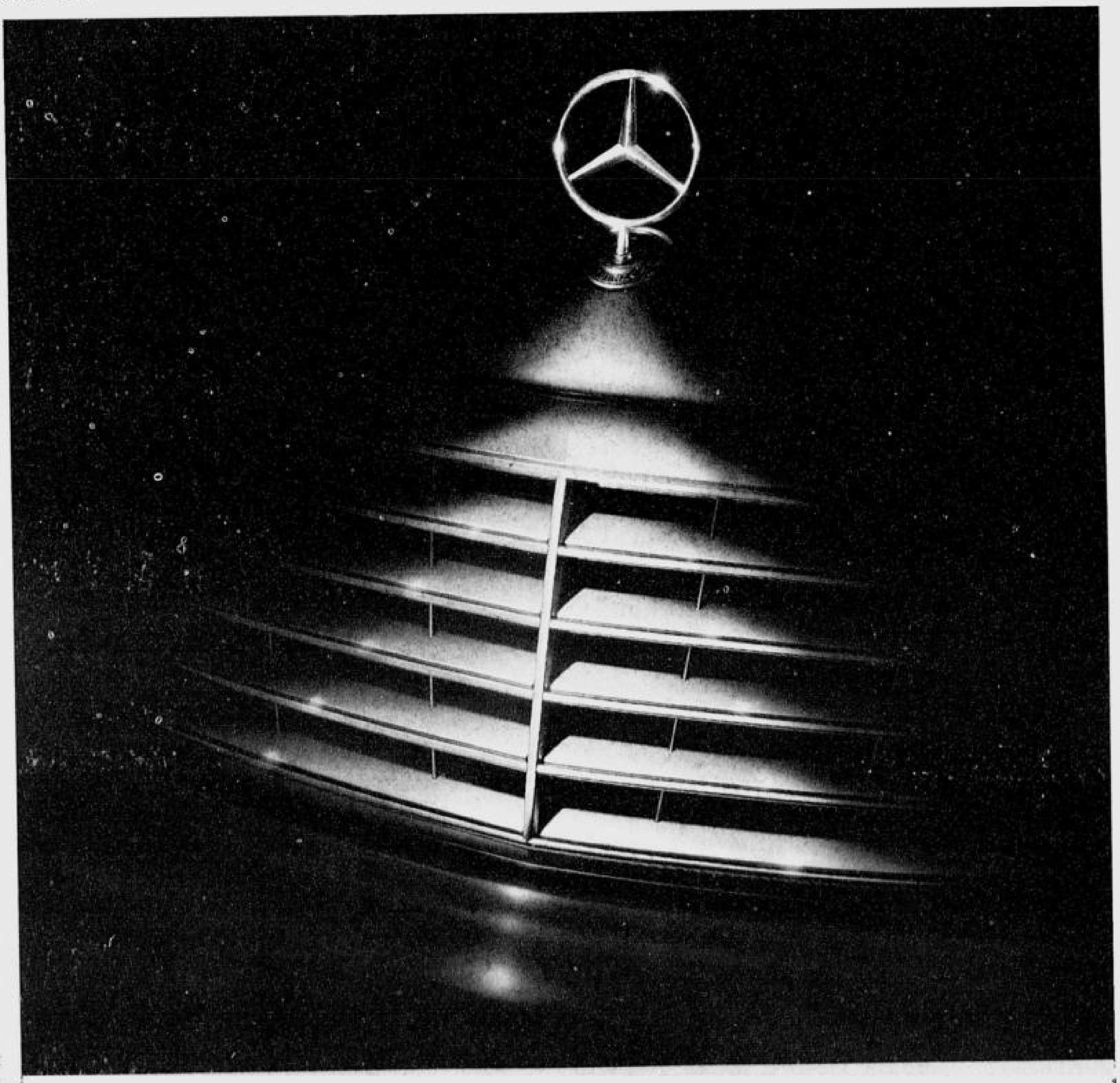
The announcement was a blow to Boeing's European rival, Airbus, which had also been lobbying Qantas to buy its planes.

Airbus spokesman David Voskuhl expressed disappointment with the Qantas decision to buy the 787 but said the "flagship of their fleet" would be the A380.

"We respect the airline's decision," Voskuhl said. "We would certainly have liked to win, but they have decided in favor of the 787 and we would certainly not criticize that."

The Airbus A350, a planned long-range competitor to the Dreamliner, is set to enter service in 2010, two years after the Boeing plane. Neither Qantas nor the rival aircraft makers indicated whether delivery schedules were an important factor in the decision.

Qantas is one of 16 airlines that have ordered Airbus' newest plane, the A380 superjumbo, which will become the world's largest passenger jet when it enters service next year. Earlier this year, Airbus angered Qantas and other customers when it announced some A380 deliveries would be delayed. *AP*



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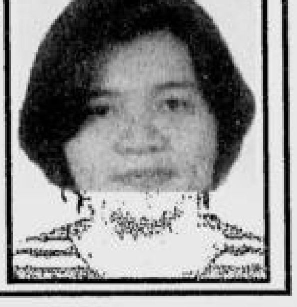
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for **Ms. Rosalinda Nogot** of No. 213 Vergel St., Pasay City, whose picture appears herewith, that was issued by Branch 115, Regional Trial Court of Pasay City in Criminal Case No. 04-2516 for Qualified Theft.



Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
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(PDI – December 16, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that estate of the late Gaudencio S. Aquino was extrajudicially settled by his widow and his children executed last November 18, 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Azucena E. Lozada who recorded the same in her notarial register as Doc. No.413 Page No.84 Book No.IV Series 2005.
PDI-Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANGEL A. ALCAYDE JR. was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 238; Page No. 49; Book No. XXXIX; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Conrado P. Sajor of Marilao Bulacan.
(PDI-Dec. 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LOURDES PEREZ-DEL ROSARIO has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #207, Page 42, Book 38, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Marietta S. Rivera-Gesta of Marikina City.
(PDI-Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Wack^2 Golf & Country Club Stock Cert. No. 675, Serial #1494 issued to Fortunato P. Aguas has been misplaced & cannot be located. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI- Dec. 2, 9, & 16 2005)

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ORDINANCE NO. 8109

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF WHEEL CLAMPS TO IMMOBILIZE ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions contained in Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the City Council of Manila is empowered to regulate the use of streets, avenues, alleys, and other public places and improve and maintain the same, regulate the use of jeepney and bus stops and parking spaces, as well as designate stands to be occupied by public and private vehicles when not in use;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Manila to introduce a regulated parking system in areas so designated by the City, so as to improve and enhance traffic flow and distribute equitably the limited on-parking spaces;

WHEREAS, pursuant to this policy, there is a need to implement the use of wheel clamping or tire lock system;

WHEREAS, wheel clamp or tire lock is a device use to immobilize vehicles that have been issued official parking violation notices;

WHEREAS, the use of this system is a more efficient way of complying with existing parking rules and regulations and eliminates the worry of vehicle owners because it does away with outright towing and impounding, thus, it minimizes complaints from vehicle owners against traffic enforcers: NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, *THAT:*

SECTION 1. The use of wheel clamps or tire locks to immobilize illegally parked and unattended vehicles in any street or area designated as "no parking" or "tow-away zone" pursuant to the Traffic Management Code of the City of Manila, shall hereby be authorized.

SEC. 2. The wheel clamp or tire lock is a yellow metal gadget or immobilizing device duly registered, authorized and bearing the seal of the City of Manila that is placed on the left portion of the right tire of the vehicle, including container vans, trucks, trailers and other multi-wheeled vehicles, and shall be installed by the authorized personnel of the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau.

SEC. 3. For the release/removal of the said clamping device, the owner/driver/operator shall pay the fine of PhP 900.00 to the City of Manila, for which a corresponding official receipt shall be issued. Payment shall be made at any official redemption center designated by the City of Manila.

SEC. 4. The owner/driver/operator of a clamped vehicle shall be given a maximum period of three (3) hours, within which to redeem the said vehicle by paying the amount of the fine prescribed in Section 3 hereof. Otherwise, the said vehicle shall be towed and impounded in the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau impounding area.

SEC. 5. The City Government of Manila shall not be held responsible for any damage to the vehicle caused by any movement or attempted movement of the vehicle by the owner/driver/operator while the wheel is clamped: *PROVIDED*, That a notice of immobilization shall be placed on the driver side windshield of the vehicle.

SEC. 6. It will be unlawful and/or illegal to remove or attempt to remove or destroy the wheel clamp, and shall subject the offender to a fine of PhP 1,000.00 or one (1) month imprisonment or both, at the discretion of the Court.

SEC. 7. A Towing and Clamping Division is hereby created under the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB) to ensure that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be carried out efficiently and effectively in accordance with its goals and objectives.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause – Any City Ordinance contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause – This Ordinance shall take effect Fifteen (15) days after its approval and publication.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today, November 15, 2005.

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor on December 13, 2005.

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.**
Mayor
City of Manila

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA**
President Pro-Tempore and
Acting Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

(Sgd.) **EMMANUEL R. SISON**
Secretary to the Mayor

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO F. LAPID**
Secretary to the City Council

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS: HON. GRECO B. BELGICA, Hon. Irma C. Alfonso-Juson, Hon. Cita Astals, Hon. Ma. Theresa B. Bonoan-David, Hon. Ruben F. Buenaventura, Hon. Louisito N. Chua, Hon. Alex C. Co, Hon. Ma. Asuncion G. Fugoso, Hon. Roger G. Gernale, Hon. Richard C. Ibay, Hon. Martin V.I. Isidro, Jr., Hon. Maria Lourdes M. Isip-Garcia, Hon. Ricardo S. Isip, Hon. Arlene W. Koa, Hon. Pacifico D. Laxa, Hon. Jhosep Y. Lopez, Hon. Victoriano A. Melendez, Hon. Roberto R. Ortega, Jr., Hon. Eduardo P. Quintos XIV, Hon. Elizabeth Z. Rivera, Hon. Monina U. Silva, Hon. Casimiro C. Sison, Hon. Edward M. Tan, Hon. Amalia A. Tolentino, Hon. Luis C. Uy, Hon. Abelardo C. Viceo, Hon. Manuel M. Zarcal, Hon. Carlos C. Castañeda, Hon. Francesca Marie P. Gernale, HON. ERNESTO G. DIONISIO, Majority Floor Leader and HON. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, President Pro-Tempore and Acting Presiding Officer

CO-AUTHORS: Hon. Benjamin D. Asilo, Hon. Danilo Victor H. Lacuna, Jr., Hon. Ma. Sheilah H. Lacuna-Pangan, Hon. Isko Moreno and Hon. Rolando M. Valeriano

(PDI–December 16, 2005)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY** (formerly Public Estates Authority) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and bid for the lease of twelve (12) pre-selected sites for outdoor billboard advertising along the landstrip of Coastal Road from Barangay Tambo, Parañaque to Barangay Ilaya, Las Piñas City.
2. Qualified Bidders
   a. Any Filipino citizen, of legal age, and
   b. Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 70% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's check starting **December 22, 2005** until **January 24, 2006** from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on **January 18, 2006** at **2:00 PM** at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on **January 25, 2006** on or before **1:00 PM**. Public opening of bids shall follow at **1:30 PM** of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line)

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI–Dec. 16, 19, 28, 2005; Jan. 5, 10 & 16, 2006)

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Lucena Regional Office Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets announces the sale of the following Acquired Assets

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O-67	LOT 5100-B-4, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-114280		1000	200,000.00
K-9	LOT 5100-BB-5-B POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103484		489	61,125.00
L-48	LOT 2713-B-3-E MELANIE SUBD POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105367		273	68,250.00
K-8	LOT 511-B-5-H-1, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103488		500	62,500.00
5-C	LOT 2312-A-3, BO. CATURIAN II	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-81761		401	59,900.00
K-7	LOT 33 - I POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103239	54.80	445	253,400.00
H-16	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-2 POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100109		300	52,500.00
I-46	LOT32-D,PSD-274055, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97395		350	63,000.00
H-13	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-C POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100106		407	71,225.00
G-36	LOT 20, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97544		300	67,500.00
R-61	LOT 3144-B-16-A BO. STA ROSA,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-119454		571	85,650.00
I-45	LOT32-C, PSD-274055, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97394		350	63,000.00
I-47	LOT 3144-B-19-H-2-A BGY STA ROSA	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100100		300	60,000.00
G-13	LOT 5100-A-1-A, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97397		450	112,500.00
G-1	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-27-B, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97396		300	52,500.00
L-53	LOT 5100-B-5-F, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105351		350	52,500.00
J-23	LOT 3144-B-19-H-1 STA.ROSA I,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-103482	45.44	400	208,443.74
H-14	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-D POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100107		300	52,500.00
L-52	LOT 5100-B-5-G POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105362		344	51,600.00
G-34	LOT 5100-A-2, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97398		666	166,500.00
4-C	LOT 1 BO.CATUIRAN	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-81759		400	83,200.00
10-D	LOT 2717-A-4-C-1, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-91512		217	54,250.00
H-15	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-27-C, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-100099		300	52,500.00
L-51	LOT 5100-B-5-H-2 PSD-04-050996	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105355		356	53,400.00
L-50	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-29-F POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-105354		300	52,500.00
P-37	LOT 2717-A-4-D-2, POBLACION,	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-114282		300	60,000.00
G-30	LOT 2717-B-3-V-9-C-4-A, POBLACION	BACO	OR MINDORO	T-97559		300	52,500.00
N-14	L OT B-4, PSD-238074, PAG-ASA	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-109176		4490	622,600.00
L-54	LOT H-2-C-1 POLACION	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-105353		400	92,000.00
O-71	LOT 121-FF-9, BO SUMAGUI,	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-114285		498	149,400.00
3-D	LOT101-A-3-A-4 SUMAGUI,	BANSUD	OR MINDORO	T-91514		345	88,300.00
N-1	LOT4 BLK8 BATANGAS HTS., SUBD., BO. BOLBOK	BATANGAS CITY	BATANGAS	T-47402		180	486,000.00
O-5	LOT 10 BLOCK 4, BATANGAS HTS SUBD,BOLBOK	BATANGAS CITY	BATANGAS	T-46405		199	537,300.00
I-48	LOT 1 BLK 3 BALIBIL	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-100104	51	298	105,500.00
14-D	LOT 72-P-4-B-1, BRGY. LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91522		350	87,500.00
O-70	LOT 10, BLK. 3, BALIPIL,	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-114280-A		300	75,000.00
9-D	LOT 62-C-4, BO. LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91521		510	76,500.00
12-D	LOT 121-FF-4, BO. SUMAGUEI	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-91520		300	90,000.00
R-62	LOT 3-D, LABASAN	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-114286	37.20	300	174,875.00
J-25	LOT 121-FF-7, SUMAGUI,	BONGABONG	OR MINDORO	T-103238		300	90,000.00
12-F	LOT 21 - A - 4 BO MAYAPA,	CALAMBA	LAGUNA	T-413978	63	457	870,910.00
L-55	LOT 4697-F PSD-04-050667, PANGGALAAN	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-105356		1133	113,300.00
P-39	LOT 6-E-2 CALAWANG	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-119452		400	100,000.00
O-65	LOT 4, TEACHERS VILL. LUMANGBAYAN,	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-113749		341	204,600.00
R-63	LOT 86 BRGY. STO NINO,	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-119453		293	351,600.00
Q-25	LOT H-3-F-6-F-4, LUMANGBAYAN	CALAPAN	OR MINDORO	T-114287	65.60	300	707,000.00
L-92	LOT 6-B-2-D-9 BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361083		147	58,800.00
N-103	LOT 24 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377467		188	112,800.00
N-104	LOT 23 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377466		177	106,200.00
L-93	LOT 6-B-2-D-8, BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361082		148	59,200.00
N-25	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-4, PSD-045605-060164, BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377468		220	165,000.00
Q-30	LOT 26 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416236		220	165,000.00
R-69	LOT 28 BRGY. MASIN SUR, CARMELA HOMES (GALA MACALINDONG SUBD.)	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-411252		220	165,000.00
L-82	LOT 3-I-6-C EASTERN SPRING SUBD, MALABANBAN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-365289		286	148,000.00
L-83	LOT 12 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366308		165	115,500.00
M-65	L OT 2-A-1-K-2-B-12, CARMELA HOMES BRGY. MASIN SUR.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372490		155	116,250.00
R-70	LOT 4 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416237		220	143,000.00
N-24	LOT 22 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376964		274	164,400.00
K-44	LOT A-3-J BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359232		220	88,000.00
L-87	LOT 15 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360545		165	113,100.00
L-91	LOT 6-B-2-D-10 BGY MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-361084		147	58,800.00
R-73	LOT 19 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T- 408775		120	96,000.00
L-89	LOT 7 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364983		210	126,000.00
L-90	LOT 4 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364043		200	120,000.00
M-66	LOT 16 BLK 9, MARIA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-367830		113	73,450.00
M-67	LOT 32 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-368153		112	72,800.00
R-71	LOT 4 BLK 10 BRGY. MASALUKOT, MA CRISTINA VILL.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	420011		165	115,500.00
R-72	LOT 5 BLK 10 BRGY. MASALAKOT, MA. CRISTINA VILL.	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	420010		165	115,500.00
N-26	LOT 11 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376233		269	161,400.00
L-88	LOT 16 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILL, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360546		174	113,100.00
N-33	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-2, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379838		220	165,000.00
L-97	LOT 11 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364282		120	96,000.00
G-46	LOT 33 BLK 1, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342744		133	93,100.00
G-45	LOT 32 BLK 1, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342743		133	93,100.00
I-14	LOT 14 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO.MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353257		165	107,250.00
I-22	LOT 3 BLK 5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352069		210	126,000.00
K-50	LOT 28 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357519		120	96,000.00
K-51	LOT 29 BLK 7, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357520		120	96,000.00
K-49	LOT 27 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357518		120	96,000.00
K-48	LOT 26 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357517		120	96,000.00
K-47	LOT 29 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354216		167	100,200.00
N-31	LOT 8 BLK 6. MA. CRISTINA VILLAGE. BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378710		165	107,250.00
M-70	LOT 2-A-1-K-B-7, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366894		130	97,500.00
L-104	LOT 24 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364875		274	164,400.00
K-54	LOT 17 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-358318		191	114,600.00
Q-32	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-3, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416238		220	165,000.00
Q-31	LOT 22 CARMELA HOMES. BO MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-408012		220	154,000.00
I-24	LOT 32 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353256		274	164,400.00
N-34	LOT 23 PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372453		220	165,000.00
N-35	LOT 10, PSD-04-05605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375832		220	165,000.00
I-16	LOT 5 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354187		120	96,000.00
I-25	LOT 8 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353422		222	133,200.00
N-32	LOT 7 BLK 6, MARIA CRISTINA VILL.AGE, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378711		165	107,250.00
L-98	LOT 21 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364980		190	114,000.00
R-74	LOT 18 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406502		120	96,000.00
N-106	LOT 19 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375833		297	178,200.00
L-94	LOT 11 PSD-04-005641, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD., BUCAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364237		226	101,700.00
O-40	LOT 6, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386959		220	165,000.00
R-76	LOT 1-A-3-B-3 ST. PETER AND PAUL SUBD. BRGY. PAHINGA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377700		252	100,800.00
G-41	LOT 15 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342855		191	114,600.00
M-69	LOT 19 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373201		190	114,000.00
L-96	LOT 10 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364281		120	96,000.00
N-107	LOT A-3-1 STA. CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364384		220	88,000.00
K-46	LOT 28 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354191		161	96,600.00
N-27	LOT A-3-B, PSD-04-050558, BO. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379839		220	88,000.00
R-75	LOT 20 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-402050		120	96,000.00
N-28	L OT 14, PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373163		220	165,000.00
O-41	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-10,CARMELA HOMES,BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386960		220	165,000.00
O-59	LOT 13 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO.MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-386958		120	96,000.00
O-57	LOT 2 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375689		120	96,000.00
K-45	LOT 18 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353219		192	115,200.00
G-42	LOT 5 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-338000		210	126,000.00
L-99	LOT 10 BLK 5, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364283		201	120,600.00
O-53	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-7, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384831		220	176,000.00
I-21	LOT 3 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352254		217	130,200.00
I-20	LOT 11 BLK5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352070		199	119,400.00
K-23	LOT 18 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356690		120	78,000.00
M-64	LOT 2-D-3-F, BRGY. MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372704		800	135,000.00
K-19	LOT 20 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359102		120	96,000.00
K-20	LOT 22 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359101		112	89,600.00
K-18	LOT 21 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359100		120	96,000.00
O-50	LOT 18, BGY. MASIN, CARMELA HOMES	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384833		220	165,000.00
I-19	LOT 27 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352859		274	164,400.00
O-39	LOT 13 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-396148		255	153,000.00
R-68	LOT 17 BGY. MASIN,CARMELA HOMES,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416233		220	143,000.00
R-67	LOT 10 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-398890		165	132,000.00
G-21	LOT 5 BLK 4 CASANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345236		219	131,400.00
L-66	LOT 3-I-9-G-1 BRGY. MALABANBAN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364210		300	132,000.00
K-24	LOT 19 BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356691		120	78,000.00
K-22	LOT 17, BLK 8 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356661		120	78,000.00
G-22	LOT 4 BLK 5 CASANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-338004		210	126,000.00
L-71	LOT 31 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364242		172	103,200.00
L-72	LOT 30 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364241		173	103,800.00
G-23	LOT 2-D-3-H BO MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343191		250	112,500.00
O-52	LOT 22, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384830		220	165,000.00
M-61	LOT 30 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-369990		274	164,400.00
G-24	LOT 15 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-347553		165	132,000.00
K-21	LOT 5 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360489		200	120,000.00
G-7	LOT 34 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343011		133	93,100.00
L-62	LOT 5 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364874		254	152,400.00
K-13	LOT 25 BLK 1,CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357207		274	164,400.00
N-93	LOT 24 PSD-045608-060590, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384463		220	165,000.00
L-64	LOT 8 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364046		269	161,400.00
P-45	LOT 25 CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-394900		220	165,000.00
H-29	LOT 8 BLK 2, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-350343		120	96,000.00
I-17	LOT 6 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILL.AGE BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-353421		220	132,000.00
G-6	LOT 15 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345235		302	181,200.00
R-66	LOT 11 BLK 10 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-398891		165	132,000.00
G-8	LOT 35 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343012		133	106,400.00
Q-26	LOT 11, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416234		220	165,000.00
L-65	LOT 1 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364042		214	128,400.00
M-59	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-3, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN SUR,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T369991		220	165,000.00
I-2	LOT 25 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352648		120	78,000.00
I-18	LOT 26 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-352860		274	164,400.00
O-47	LOT 9 BRGY. MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384662		220	165,000.00
R-65	LOT 8 BLK. 3, CASSANDRA VILL, MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385188		214	128,400.00
M-60	LOT 20 BLK 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370615		288	172,800.00
O-48	LOT 21 BLK. 1, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385769		278	166,800.00
O-49	LOT 27 BLK. 4, CASSANDRA VILL, MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385187		180	108,000.00
Q-29	LOT2-A-1-K-2-B-1, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-408013		161	104,650.00
I-11	LOT 12 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354336		120	96,000.00
K-39	LOT 11 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354295		193	115,800.00
O-45	LOT 6 BLK. 8, MA CRISTINA VILL, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373685		120	96,000.00
O-46	LOT 7 BLK. 8, MA CRISTINA VILL, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373686		120	96,000.00
L-76	LOT 2 BLK 3 CASANDRA VILLAGE.BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360543		200	120,000.00
M-113	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-4, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370681		220	165,000.00
N-99	LOT 7, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377137		220	165,000.00
K-40	LOT 6 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357248		200	120,000.00
N-105	LOT 5 PSD-045608-060590, BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375831		220	165,000.00
G-25	LOT 16 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-347554		174	139,200.00
N-21	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-5, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378709		220	165,000.00
H-24	LOT 23 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-348928		274	164,400.00
I-12	LOT 11 BLK 7 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354335		120	78,000.00
N-22	LOT 2-A-1-K-2-B-9, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378712		130	97,500.00
P-46	LOT 25 CARMELA HOMES (GALA MACALINDONG SUBD). MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406529		220	143,000.00
N-23	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-6, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376234		220	165,000.00
L-78	LOT 2-D-1-E ALIVIA SUBD, MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-364240		216	97,200.00
Q-33	LOT 22 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-407334		207	124,200.00
L-81	LOT31 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366907		133	106,400.00
L-80	LOT30 BLK 1 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366906	46.20	133	118,510.00
K-42	LOT A-3-K BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357307		220	88,000.00
L-77	LOT 2-D-1-F ALIVIA SUBD,MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360544		400	180,000.00
K-30	LOT 30 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356023		120	78,000.00
K-43	LOT 7 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355869		200	120,000.00
J-37	Lot 2-D-3-E BRGY., MALABANBAN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	I-359099		199	89,550.00
G-27	LOT 12 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342856		136	81,600.00
G-28	LOT 13 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342857		159	95,400.00
K-25	LOT 21 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE.BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355870		179	107,400.00
5-A	LOT14 BLK3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-319191		200	120,000.00
G-31	LOT 28 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342413		274	164,400.00
K-27	LOT12, BLK9 MA CRISTINA VILL,CANDELARIA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357065		120	78,000.00
K-28	LOT13, BLK9 MA CRISTINA VILL,CANDELARIA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357066		120	78,000.00
K-35	LOT 9 BLK 5 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354183		206	123,600.00
K-26	LOT 14 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357067		120	78,000.00
K-37	LOT A-3-H STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357306		220	88,000.00
K-31	LOT 31 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356024		120	78,000.00
K-32	LOT A-3-G BRGY. STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357516		220	88,000.00
K-33	LOT A-2-C STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357589		220	88,000.00
K-34	LOT A-2-B STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357588		220	99,000.00
N-18	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-B-9, CARMELA HOMES, BO. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378141		220	165,000.00
7	LOT 5-A-2-B-1-1,BO. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-311086		343	240,211.06
G-35	LOT 7 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE. BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343013		221	132,600.00
K-36	LOT A-4-F BGY STA CATALINA, NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357141		241	120,500.00
M-62	LOT 11 BLK 2, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-370616		139	83,400.00
K-29	LOT 15 BLK 9 MA CRISTINA VILL AGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-356022		120	96,000.00
P-42	LOT 39 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410126		120	96,000.00
G-59	LOT 10 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343188		205	123,000.00
G-55	LOT A-3-F- STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343161		220	88,000.00
O-28	LOT A-2-E STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	413781-A		220	99,000.00
L-111	LOT 18 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO.MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366572		185	111,000.00
N-53	LOT 9 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE., BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376143		204	122,400.00
M-73	L OT 1-A-3-B-7, ST. PAUL SUBD., BRGY. PAHINGA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366895		419	167,600.00
G-65	LOT 10 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-345286		313	187,800.00
K-59	LOT 3 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-355702		200	120,000.00
N-113	LOT 19 BLK 2, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-377100		182	109,200.00
O-43	LOT 25, BLK. 3, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-381112		120	96,000.00
N-47	LOT A-2-G, PSD-04-046400, BRGY. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379836		220	88,000.00
G-67	LOT 33 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342742		285	171,000.00
G-56	LOT 16 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342188		191	114,600.00
R-77	L2-A-1-K-7-D-1,CARMELA HOMES, MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	416235		220	143,000.00
G-68	LOT 29 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-342414		274	164,400.00
K-58	LOT 4 BLK 4 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-357254		218	130,800.00
N-42	LOT 12 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379716		165	132,000.00
O-56	LOT 8,CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385189		220	165,000.00
N-48	LOT 2-A-1-K-2-B-11, PSD-045608-060590 , BRGY. MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379714		130	97,500.00
M-74	LOT 15 BLK 3, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372767		200	120,000.00
N-45	LOT 12 PSD-045605-060164, CARMELA HOMES, MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379771		220	165,000.00
I-27	LOT 16 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-354147		190	114,000.00
N-44	LOT 2 BLK 5, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379709		210	126,000.00
N-50	LOT 1-A-1-K-7-B-11, PSD-045605-060164, BRGY. MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379717		220	165,000.00
L-112	LOT 15 BLK 2 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384283		223	133,800.00
O-27	LOT A-2-D STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	413781		220	99,000.00
N-49	LOT 16 BLK 3, CASSANDRA VILLAGE., BRGY. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-375694		214	128,400.00
P-43	LOT 40 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410127		120	96,000.00
P-41	LOT 41 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-410128		120	96,000.00
N-40	LOT 13 BLK 6,MA CRISTINA VILLAGE,MASALAKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372094		165	107,250.00
N-39	LOT 14 BLK 6, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-373688		165	107,250.00
L-122	LOT 16 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE,BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-+365290		294	176,400.00
N-46	LOT A-2-F, PSD-04046400, BRGY. STA. CATALINA	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379837		220	99,000.00
N-54	LOT 9 BLK 3, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD., BUKAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-376140		322	225,400.00
M-79	LOT 2 BLK 4, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372703		217	130,200.00
M-75	LOT 2—A-1-K-7-B-1, CARMELA HOMES, BRGY. MASIN SUR	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372093		220	165,000.00
O-55	LOT 8 BLK. 5, CASSANDRA VILL. MANGILAG,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-385768		210	126,000.00
N-41	LOT 11 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE,BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-379715		165	115,500.00
P-44	LOT 2-A-1-K-7-D-5 CARMELA HOMES,MASIN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-406530		220	176,000.00
K-57	LOT A-5-B BGY STA CATALINANORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360553		220	88,000.00
R-78	LOT1-A-3-B-2 PAHINGA I,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-394037		218	67,200.00
K-55	LOT 17 GALA MACALINDONG SUBD, MAHARLIKA HWAY,BUKAL	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-359231		349	157,050.00
O-54	LOT 2-A-1-K-5-A, GALA MACALINDONG SUBD MASIN,	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-384832		250	200,000.00
K-56	LOT A-5—C BGY STA CATALINA NORTE	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-360552		220	88,000.00
L-116	LOT 29 BLK9 , MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366575		120	78,000.00
L-113	LOT 30 BLK 2 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE,BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366904		120	84,000.00
P-40	LOT 4549-A BUKAL SUR(NOW TAGUAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-378156	51.96	123	111,650.00
G-60	LOT 31 BLK 1 CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BO. MANGILAG	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-343187		274	164,400.00
L-118	LOT 28 BLK 9, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BO. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-366573		120	78,000.00
M-80	LOT 2-D-3-A, BRGY MALABANBAN	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372479		400	160,000.00
H-27	LOT 10 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-349303		165	132,000.00
H-28	LOT 9 BLK 6 MA CRISTINA VILLAGE. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-349302		165	132,000.00
M-84	LOT 16 BLK 8, MA CRISTINA VILLAGE, BRGY. MASALUKOT	CANDELARIA	QUEZON	T-372702		120	78,000.00
R-79	LOT 3,PAG-IBIG SUBD,MADULAO&PACABIT	CATANAUAN	QUEZON	T-385773	36	135	229,200.00
N-101	LOT 6 BLK 13, PAG-IBIG PARK SUBD., BO. PACABIT/MADULAO	CATANAUAN	QUEZON	T-376297	65.24	135	243,600.00
G-49	LOT 10 BLK 3 , BO. MALIGAYA	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-97558		300	90,000.00
7-D	LOT 10 BLK 7, POBLACION	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-91513		262	104,800.00
O-69	LOT 12 BLK 7, POB	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-113751		262	104,800.00
L-49	LOT 3 BLK 4 POBLACION	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-105358		300	90,000.00

(Continued on page B15)

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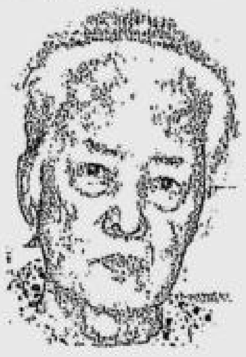
OBITUARIES

Soldier, public servant, loving father and grandfather



MARCELINO TUAZON OCAMPO

(April 26, 1919 - December 13, 2005)
Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 86.

His wife, **Remedios**; children **Olivia**, **Marcelino** & **Nancy**, **Renato** & **Liza**, **Paul** & **Ninette**, **Oliver** & **Pam**, **Joey**; sisters **Saling** & **Nila**; grandchildren **Mico**, **Mitchie**, **Angel**, **Janille**, **Teofi**, **PauPau**, **Nina**, **Carlito** & **Frankie** relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Chapel, Araneta Avenue, QC. Interment will follow on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City at 3:00PM after the Holy Mass.

Bienvenida Kasala y Gutierrez

Joined her Maker on December 14, 2005 at the age of 80 years old.

Her bereaved family, children **Mila**, **Frances** and **Rafiul Ahad**, **Lilian** and **Noli Gestuvo**, **Naneth**, **Bobby** and **Lhai**, **Ruben** and **Bambi**; siblings **Oyang**, **Rosing**, **Mimoy**, **Dioly**, **Nita**, **Nitoy** and **Eddie**; grandchildren **Erwin**, **Ray**, **Alex**, **Sarah**, **Andrei**, **Franz**, **Carlo**, **Kevin** & **Benjo**, relatives and friends enjoin you to pray for her eternal rest and peace.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 17, 2005 at the Alitagtag Cemetery, Alitagtag, Batangas.

FOR GOD
SO LOVED THE
WORLD; THAT HE
GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE
EVERLASTING
LIFE.
JOHN 3:16

VALENTINO "Sonny" BARROS

Peacefully joined the Lord on December 12, 2005

His mother Nicolasa P. Barros; children Kiko, Miranda and Leon; sisters Dina Ellorin; Carmelita Lopez, Carmencita, Benita, Nanette and Cecille; brothers-in-law Bobby Lopez, Abe Ellorin, Jade Presbitero, David Murrel and Oscar Dipasupil; sisters-in-law Ester Dipasupil and Sylvia Dipasupil-Altomonte; nieces, nephews and friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Claret) at Mahinhin St., UP Village, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. mass at Claret Church..

Our Dearly Beloved

Obdulia "Mommy" Tugot

born September 5, 1915 has gone to the loving arms of our Lord on December 9, 2005 at the age 90.

Her loving husband, Celestino; children Visitacion(+), Wilfredo, Ligaya, Norman & Sonia; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the church of Mother of Perpetual Help, Kawayanon, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Interment will follow on Sunday, December 18, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05 RO10-2006-001
Revised on July 28, 2004 Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority Region 10*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Truckers / Hauler owners / operators / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : 2006 Contracts for the Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services
Location Cagayan de Oro City NFA Owned/Contracted Warehouses to NFA Bukidnon, Lanao Norte, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin & Lanao Sur Warehouses
Brief Description Contract involves the hauling of bags of Rice from NFA Cagayan de Oro City to designated destinations.
Source of Rice Stocks NFA Cagayan de Oro City Owned/Leased Warehouses/Pier Disport

LOT NO.	DESTINATION PROVINCE / WAREHOUSE	ESTIMATED VOLUME IN BAGS OF 50 kg	MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRUCKS REQUIRED	MINIMUM NET LOAD CAPACITY (BAGS) REQUIRED	RATE/ BAG OF 50 kg (Php)	APPROVED BUDGET CEILING (Php)
1	BUKIDNON / GID AGLAYAN, MALAYBALAY	16,000	3	1,200	18.15	290,400.00
2	GID VALENCIA, VALENCIA	16,000	3	1,200	20.08	321,280.00
3	GID MARAMAG, MARAMAG	16,000	3	1,200	23.10	369,600.00
4	LANAO NORTE / GID BARAAS, ILIGAN CITY	98,000	7	2,800	15.40	1,509,200.00
5	GID LALA, LALA	42,000	3	1,200	25.58	1,074,360.00
6	CAMIGUIN / LAKAS FLGC, MAMBAJAO MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL /	107,000	5	2,000	30.25	3,236,750.00
7	GID GANGO, OZAMIS CITY	160,000	8	3,200	31.90	5,104,000.00
8	MISAMIS ORIENTAL / CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY PIER DISPORT/ GID PATAG, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY GID BALOY AND BALOY LEASED WHSES, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	820,000 By lot of 82,000 Bags	4 per Lot	1,600 per Lot	4.51	3,698,200.00
9	LANAO DEL SUR / MARAWI CITY	40,000	5	2,000	22.28	891,200.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2/F. NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	December 19, 29, 2005	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	January 5, 2006	1:30 PM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	January 16, 2006	1:30 PM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan De Oro City	January 16, 2006	1:35 PM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00)** per contract to the Cashier of the National Food Authority-Cagayan de Oro City.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The ***National Food Authority, Region 10*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – December 16 & 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05 RO10-2006-001
Revised on July 28, 2004 Supply of Handling Services

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority Region 10*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Grains Cargo Handling Service Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for handling the movement of grains, stocks in the warehouses and to load/unload to/from trucks said commodities with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the year 2006 as follows:

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSES	ESTIMATED VOLUME (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1	BUKIDNON	WAO, LANAO SUR, KALILANGAN, MARAMAG, VALENCIA, AGLAYAN	168,000	P 623,000.00
2	CAMIGUIN	MAMBAJAO	222,000	P 777,000.00
3	LANAO NORTE	ILIGAN CITY and LALA	333,700	P 1,171,450.00
4	MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	OZAMIS CITY	351,000	P 1,253,000.00
5	MISAMIS ORIENTAL	CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY and GINGOOG CITY	1,666,300	P 3,656,300.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2F, NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	December 19-29, 2005	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room 2F NFA-10 Regional Office Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	January 6, 2006 January 17, 2006	1:30 PM 1:30 PM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room 2F NFA-10 Regional Office Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	January 17, 2006	1:35 PM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City		

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (P 2,000.00) per contract to the Cashier of the National Food Authority-Cagayan de Oro City.
The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
The ***National Food Authority, Region 10*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Dec. 16 & 23, 2005)

UPGRADE 2006: The 17th UP Diliman Job Fair

THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines Diliman Office of Counseling together with the UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants bring to the community another staging of UPGRADE 2006, the 17th University-wide Job Fair. Interested company-participants, as well as the graduating students are invited to take part on this annual event.

UPGRADE 2006 will take place from Jan. 23-27 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus. This event is a perfect venue to bridge the gap between the academe and the workplace.

Interested companies may contact the following numbers for any inquiries: Tel. No./Fax No.: 926.4162 or Tel. No. 929.5835 or email us at upjobfair2006@yahoo.com. You may also contact the organizing committee through: 0917.8158540 (Jill); 0919.5608386 (Maila); 0915.4082972 (Pete); 0916.2034170 (Kristy); 0917.8584532 (Crystle).

Rebustillo - Rito Reunion

THE FAMILY OF FELISA R. Rebustillo vda. De Sotto will host this year's Rebustillo-Rito Clan whole day reunion on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at Cesar Rebustillo de Paula's Farm, Rizal, Oas, Albay. Family members are requested to contact Janet M. Mago (09214647761) and Lorli B. Sotto (0524856314).

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Lucena Regional Office Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets announces the sale of the following Acquired Assets

PROP#	PROPERTY LOCATION			TCT NO.	FLR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE
N-16	LOT 4-B-2-G, PSD-141360, POB. MUN. OF GLORIA	GLORIA	OR MINDORO	T-109177		600	180,000.00
R-80	LOT 2 BLK 5 LUZVILLE SUBD BO. MABINI	GUMACA	QUEZON	T-375461	164.62	180	288,465.00
N-3	LOT 2209 CADASTRAL SURVEY OF LIPA BO. MALALIM NA LODLOD	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128425	122	289	964,333.33
R-4	LOT 16 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146383		40	92,000.00
R-9	LOT 12 BLK 6 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-136499	20	40	146,000.00
M-8	LOT 10 BLK 16 Romana Aerovilla Subd., Brgy. Tibig	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126820		152	98,800.00
N-7	LOT 1609-B-2-B-5-B BGY TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128018		448.50	224,250.00
O-17	LOT 21 BLOCK 1, SUNRISE VILL IV, BOLBOK,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-132061		60	90,000.00
P-2	LOT 10050-C-2 BGY BULACNIN	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-136500		322	177,100.00
R-5	LOT 18 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146382	31.5	40	231,420.00
M-2	LOT 5412-A NEAR BAGONG POOK,BANAYBANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125847	120	542	2,775,000.00
R-10	LOT 14 BLK 14 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-143999	34.40	42.70	211,730.00
P-7	LOT 8 BLK 23 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-134702	26.40	40	168,784.00
M-18	LOT 24 BLK 16, BO. MATAAS NA LUPA	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126662		186	111,600.00
L-157	LOT 423 INT. CM RECTO AVE	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-124811	123	287	2,121,750.00
M-11	LOT 1609-B-2-B-6-A Brgy. Tibig.	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126666		447.50	223,750.00
Q-2	LOT 7 BLK 28 TRANSVILLE HOMES, B-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-143749	31.50	60	234,816.00
O-8	LOT 1-B, GATPOLINTAN ST,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-131940		85	680,000.00
O-14	LOT 1666-F-10, BOS. BUAL & TAMBO,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-132342		190	171,000.00
R-2	LOT 16 BLK 24 TRANSVILLE HOMES, BANAY-BANAY	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146387	48	40	325,920.00
R-3	LOT 18 BLK 24 TRANSVILLE HOMES,BRGY. B-BANAY,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-146388		40	92,000.00
L-2	LOT 8 BLK 16 ROMANA AEROVILLE SUBD,TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125637		165	99,000.00
M-5	LOT 7272-B, BRGY. PINAGTUNGOLAN	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-125848	60	246	325,200.00
L-4	LOT 1686-E-1, BRGY TIBIG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-124812		968.50	363,187.50
R-8	LOT 4 BRGY. LATAG	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-128205	108	432	831,000.00
R-15	L13405-C-10, INOSLUBAN,	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	P-669		261.50	130,750.00
M-10	LOT 16 BLK 3 St. Joseph Village Annex, Brgy. Tibig	LIPA CITY	BATANGAS	T-126663		167	158,650.00
10-B	LOT9 BLK 4 PENHOMES SUBD, BO. BEBITO	LOPEZ	QUEZON	T-323322		122	97,600.00
R-81	LOT 6 BLK 11 COUNTRYSIDE VILL. AYUTI	LUCBAN	QUEZON	418316	22.95	60.50	232,034.00
P-73	LOT 9 BLK 4 PH I LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILL, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110648		130	156,000.00
13	LOT 2057-A-4-C-2-B-2-C, IYAM DISTRICT	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82692		251	188,250.00
L-128	LOT 2245A-6-C, UNITED HOMES COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96852		180	126,000.00
R-82	LOT 11 BLK. 1 ATIS ST, CALMAR HOMES PH V-C KAN.MAYAO,LUCENA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	112013	30	75	384,000.00
R--90	LOT 5 BLOCK 9, RJ VILLE IBA. MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107192	40	100	410,000.00
RTO	LOT 16 BLK 10, DAU ST CALMAR HOMES, KAN MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96853	36	100	358,000.00
O-29	LOT 3187-A-1-C, PUROK PAG-KAKAISA BRGY. G- GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105148		225	157,500.00
N-82	LOT 4 BLK 34, PRINCETONE ST., PLEASANTVILLE SUBD.,IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96850	39	102	467,550.00
Q-34	LOT 8 BLK 15 BGY IX PANTOK, LA MILAGROSA SUBD	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114364		231	462,000.00
R-88	LOT 6 BLK 5 MOTORPOOL VILL, MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110873		146	292,000.00
Q-40	LOT 27 BLK 5 MOTORPOOL VILL,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114349		120	144,000.00
N-76	L OT 4851-K-PSD-44889, BO. COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-101537	103.7	303	514,500.00
R-87	LOT 19 BLK 3 CALMAR HOMES PH3 KAN MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110475	36	108	473,400.00
N-75	LOT 13 BLK 15, BAYABAS ST., MARKETVIEW SUBD.,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-100755		198	158,400.00
L-127	LOT 8 BLK 3 TEOFILA VILL,BEL-AIR SUBD	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96620		143	228,800.00
L-150	LOT 11 BLK 5, TEACHERS VILL., VICTOR ANGELO ST., COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96622	40.5	90	323,100.00
Q-46	LOT 9 BLK 6 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE ,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110984		118	159,300.00
3	L29B16 ZABALLERO SUBD, G-GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82694		280	196,363.00
O-30	LOT 3197-A-1-A, G- GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105149		165	115,500.00
R-85	LOT 30 BLK 7, H FAUSTA VILLAGE, BO ISABANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110225	57.70	150	485,800.00
P-66	LOT 8 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL PH II	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107252		125	125,000.00
L-154	LOT 10-A NETHERLANDS ST,UNIVERSITY SITE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-97128	63.88	86	373,600.00
Q-36	LOT 6 BLK 3 MOTORPOOL VILL PH2 MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114363		131	104,800.00
P-67	LOT 7 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL PH II	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-107251		122	122,000.00
RTO	LOT 13A B1 CIUDAD MAHARLIKA IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96623	90	187	1,045,000.00
R-86	LOT 8 BLK 1 PH 2 MOTORPOOL VILL MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-114348		162	194,400.00
I-32	LOT 15 BLK 8 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-93839		100	120,000.00
1-B	LOT 2057-A-1-C-2-B, BO. IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82723		500	350,000.00
P-63	LOT 2 BLK 11 MOTORPOOL VILLAGE PH 2, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110990		120	120,000.00
P-76	LOT 13 BLK 3 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO.	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-119078		133	156,000.00
R-101	LOT 31 BLK 5 CLAYTON COR.NORTHBROOK ST, PLEASANTVILLE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110671		175	525,000.00
P-64	LOT 4 BLK 12 MOTORPOOL VILLAGE. BO.MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-105648		170	170,000.00
P-68	LOT 5 BLK 4 LA MILAGROSA SUBD,PANTOC DIST,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110439		239	239,000.00
L-125	LOT 2245 A-6-E UNITED HOMES, SUBD, COTTA	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96238		180	126,000.00
Q-42	LOT 5-A OHIO ST,UNIVERSITY VILLAGE, BO.IBA. DUPAY	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-104490	63	138	486,000.00
Q-48	LOT 12 BLK 11 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110472		120	120,000.00
Q-39	LOT 28 BLK 3 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE, MAYAO,	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T110986		100	80,000.00
6	LOT 3651-C-1-A, KANLURANG MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-82691		600	480,097.00
P-47	LOT 7 BLK 5 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILL,MAYAO	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110319		120	102,000.00
R-83	LOT 16 BLK 22-A ZABALLERO SUBD., GULANG GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-95171		342	442,000.00
R-89	LOT 10 BLK 2 PETUNIA ST., VILLA AUREA SUBD. DOMOIT	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110445	66.10	163	714,833.00
L-160	LOT 3179-E-2 GULANG GULANG	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-96851	54	78	620,700.00
P-59	LOT 3 BLK 4 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE, DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110443		129.66	116,694.00
O-47	LOT 1 BLK 3 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE SUBD., DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110907		154	138,600.00
R-84	LOT 1 BLK 4 SAN RAFAEL VILLAGE. DALAHICAN	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	110909		122.97	86,079.00
P-65	LOT 36 BLK 7 LUCENA MOTORPOOL VILLAGE	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-110231		104	124,800.00
N-79	LOT 23 BLK 16, AFGHANISTAN ST., BETTER LIVING SUBD., IYAM	LUCENA CITY	QUEZON	T-101519		286	486,200.00
Q-41	LOT 6 BLK 4 ST. VINCENT ST., NORTH EMPLOYEES VILLAGE, G-GULANG	LUCENA CITY-	QUEZON	T-110647	64.40	180	773,000.00
N-95	LOT 6869-A, BRGY. III	MATAAS NA KAHOY	BATANGAS	T-112312		460	322,000.00
R-91	LOT 6-D NATIONAL ROAD, POBLACION II	MULANAY	QUEZON	T-377135	70	355	298,500.00
L-57	LOT 1-A-5-F, PSD-04-051086, POBLACION I, SANTIAGO	NAUJAN	OR MINDORO	T-105348		300	240,000.00
K-2	LOT 855-C-52, DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-105495	60	290	214,000.00
M-24	LOT 1076-A BO TAMAK	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106795	71	393	352,200.00
M-25	LOT 885-C-58, PSD-04-019402, BRGY. BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-108168		233	139,800.00
M-26	LOT 855-C-56, PSD-04-019402, DAMAVILLE SUBD., BO. BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-108165		225	135,000.00
K-4	LOT 855-C-54 DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106013		217	130,200.00
K-1	LOT 855-C-53 DAMAVILLE SUBD., BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-106012		213	127,800.00
K-3	LOT 855-C-55, DAMAVILLE SUBD.,BAWI	PADRE GARCIA	BATANGAS	T-105496		221	132,600.00
P-79	LOT 24 BLK 2 KRISANTA VILL,BGY BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-379712	32	80	252,800.00
R-93	LOT 12-B BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES BO.BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-416073		120	192,000.00
Q-57	LOT 13-B BLK 8 PENHOMES, BGY. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-385186		120	192,000.00
12-A	LOT 19 BLK 10-B PENHOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-319122		252	504,000.00
Q-56	Lot 18-A B8, PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-368181	64	120	266,000.00
R-92	LOT 4 BLK 10-B PENINSULA HOMES,BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-377701		171	342,000.00
K-62	LOT 20 BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-345287		262	827,188.00
L-133	LOT 1428-A-17 BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-366306		277	498,600.00
Q-54	LOT 13-A , BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-375691	42	120	286,000.00
P-78	LOT 11 BLK 2 MERAMAR SUBD, MAPAGONG	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-406532	30	155	413,000.00
R-95	LOT 24 BLK 2 PINAGBAYANAN,	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	418315		117	166,050.00
N-111	LOT 19 BLK 5, INTERTOWN HOMES PH. 2, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-376296		194	320,100.00
Q-49	LOT 22-A BLK 6 MERAMAR VILL. BRGY. MAPAGONG	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-411269	32.4	87.5	296,000.00
Q-55	LOT 2-B BLK 8 PENHOMES, BGY BUCAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-377699		114	182,400.00
18	LOT 5 BLK 10-B PENHOMES, BO BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-298658		253	455,400.00
G-51	LOT 6-B BLK 8 PENINSULA HOMES, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-343174		119	202,300.00
Q-50	LOT 32 BLK 2 KRISANTA VILLAGE, BGY.BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-384624	38	80	272,233.33
Q-53	LOT 2 BLK 13 CATTLEYA ST, INTERTOWN HOMES,	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-406533	32	80	247,200.00
R-94	LOT 15 BLK 2, BRGY. PINAGBAYANAN	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	418571		118	76,700.00
Q-52	LOT 2 BLK 3 KRISANTA VILLAGE, BO. BUKAL	PAGBILAO	QUEZON	T-385570	47	80	241,066.67
J-22	LOT 1 BLK 1 GREENLAND SUBD, STA CLARA NORTE	PILA	LAGUNA	T-196365	40	188	245,200.00
L-159	LOT 4 STO NINO	PINAMALAYAN	OR MINDORO	T-105359	78	601	213,800.00
Q-58	L 6933-A-2, BGY TANAUAN,	PLARIDEL	QUEZON	T-393591	74.20	524	403,440.00
M-58	PLAN PSU-04-0008444, QUEJANO ST., POBLACION	POLA	OR MINDORO	T-109178	119.25	100	250,255.00
R-19	LOT 19 BLK 11 VILLA ROSARIO SUBD, NAMUNGA,	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-123542		347	242,900.00
R-20	LOT 2 BLK 11 VILLA ROSARIO SUBD, NAMUNGA,	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-123451		522	365,400.00
N-9	LOT 16 BLK 3, VILLA MA. CONCEPCION SUBD., BO. NAMUCO	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-110032	42	189	256,032.00
M-28	LOT 4 BLK 3, MARKETVIEW SUBD., BRGY. NAMUCO	ROSARIO	BATANGAS	T-107924		160	112,000.00
O-72	LOT 1, SAN MARIANO,	ROXAS	OR MINDORO	T-114284		600	180,000.00
I-30	LOT 2 BLK 3 CASSANDRA VILLAGE	SAN ANTONIO	QUEZON	T-353498		132	79,200.00
RTO	LOT 2725-A BRGY. DAGATAN	SAN JOSE	BATANGAS	107764	46	198	182,840.00
R-22	LOT 24 BLK 2 THFAMILY HAVEN, MABALANOY,	SAN JUAN	BATANGAS	T-115755	32.4	80	234,936.89
P-13	LOT 6 BLK 3 THF HAVEN, MABALANOY,	SAN JUAN	BATANGAS	T-115754	32.4	80	267,576.00
Q-4	LOT 37 BLK 1 CRYSTAL PLAZA SUBD. POBLACION	SAN PASCUAL	BATANGAS	T-123799	44	60	285,381.81
J-27	LOT 3553-C-3-C-4-D-4 ILAG,	SAN TEODORO	OR MINDORO	T-103489		1024	184,320.00
21-B	LOT 21 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-3233559		180	72,000.00
O-34	LOT 5612-I-2 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373155		180	72,000.00
O-38	LOT 5612-I-3 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373154		180	72,000.00
G-16	LOT 7 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343164		180	72,000.00
O-37	LOT 15 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384626		231	92,400.00
21-B1	LOT 20 SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-323577		180	72,000.00
19-B1	LOT 14 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322802		165	66,000.00
6-B	L5612- H BO.SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322801		180	72,000.00
G-62	LOT 5612 - I - 7, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343163		410	164,000.00
9-B	LOT 22 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322678		180	72,000.00
R-96	LOT 6-A-4-E-4, BRGY. SAMPALOC, SAN LORENZO RUIZ SUBD,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384266	43.04	263	229,533.33
19-B	LOT 13 , BO. SAMPALOC.	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322859		180	72,000.00
G-15	LOT 8 BO.. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343180		180	72,000.00
26-B	L5612-I-4 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322791		180	72,000.00
24-B	LOT 24 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322795		337	337,800.00
P-80	5612-D SAMPALOC,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-379713		180	72,000.00
23-B	LOT 3639-B, 47 GOMEZ ST	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322864	54.36	218	981,000.00
15-B	LOT 23 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322799		220	88,000.00
O-35	LOT 11, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-377136		180	72,000.00
R-98	LOT 5022-6-A BRGY. BALUBAL	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384680		200	100,000.00
26-B1	LOT 5612 - I - 5 BO SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322792		180	72,000.00
O-36	L16, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-375465		205	82,000.00
G-61	LOT 5612 - I - 6 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343162		180	63,000.00
M-112	L 19, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-370678		180	72,000.00
M-111	LOT 18, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-370679		180	72,000.00
G-17	LOT 9 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-343181		180	72,000.00
R-97	LOT 5022-A-6 BRGY. BALUBAL	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-384661		200	100,000.00
6-B1	LOT 5612 - I BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322800		180	72,000.00
M-110	LOT 3-B, B01, GEN. LUNA ST., POBLACION	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-373337	114	117	1,945,000.00
8-B1	LOT 26 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-329294		180	72,000.00
27-B	LOT 5, BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322798		180	72,000.00
18-B	LOT 27 SAMPALOC,	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322793		414	165,600.00
N-90	LOT 17 PSD-4A-010774, BRGY. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-375830		288	115,200.00
27-B1	LOT 4 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322797		180	72,000.00
8-B	LOT 25 BO. SAMPALOC	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-322794		180	72,000.00
R-99	LOT 11 BLK 11 HOLY FAMILY SUBD.. BO. MAMALA 2	SARIAYA	QUEZON	T-396149	42	125	436,700.00
K-12	LOT 12 BLK 3 OROVILLE, CATININGAN	SOCORRO	OR MINDORO	T-103234		300	90,000.00
K-11	LOT 13 BLK 3 ORO VILLE, CATININGAN	SOCORRO	OR MINDORO	T-103233		300	120,000.00
P-17	LOT 10 BLK 1 JULIEVILLVE SUBD., POBLACION	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-97331	20	88	284,800.00
CTS#2J	LOT4 BLK 14, TENNESSEE HOMES. BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72256	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#28J	LOT 2 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES. BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72266	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#21I	LOT 1 BLK 17 TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-72259		60	286,176.00
CTS#33J	LOT 33 BLK. 9, IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS SUBD., PH. II BRGY. SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	82121	18	35	175,208.00
Q-5	LOT 8 BLK 3 JULIEVILL SUBD., POBLACION	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-100565	72	93	286,500.00
R-23	LOT 25 BLK 28 IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS, SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-99285	18	35	168,565.00
CTS#21J	LOT 4 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES. BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72268	24	40	246,176.00
Q-6	LOT 35 BLK 32 IMPERIALSOUTHMEADOWS, SN.VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-100569	18	35	161,816.00
CTS#51J	LOT 19 BLK 10 IMPERIAL SOUTH MEADOWS, SAN VICENTE	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	T-82160	18	35	179,880.00
CTS#22J	LOT 3 BLK. 13, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	71511	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#13J	LOT 2 BLK 17, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72260	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#30J	LOT 2 BLK. 13, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	71510	24	40	246,176.00
CTS#27J	LOT 3 BLK. 18, TENNESSEE HOMES, BRGY. SAN PABLO	STO. TOMAS	BATANGAS	72267	24	40	246,176.00
O-33	LOT 23 BGY.STA CECILIA POBLACION	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-394036		251	150,800.00
O-59	LOT 10 BLK 6 KAIMITO ST, 3KL FARM HOMES	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-396377	33.50	104	354,200.00
I-36	LOT 2 BLK 16 GULF VIEW SUBD,	TAGKAWAYAN	QUEZON	T-353934		215	258,000.00
R-30	LOT 22 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTRY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	95045	24	40	180,080.00
21	LOT 11401 BALELE,	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-61158	84.80	645	385,701.60
R-26	LOT 14 BLK 4 VILLA CORAZON SUBD .SANTOR	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-96283	20	100	254,800.00
R-27	LOT 10 BLK 7 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, BRGY DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	101088	24	40	186,320.00
P-20	LOT 40 BLK 7,RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91971	24	40	176,652.80
16-D	LOT 20 BLK 10, BRGY. SAMBAT SAPPHIRE COR. AMETHYST, JOSEFA VILLAGE	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-67221	103.50	332	1,237,000.00
Q-8	LOT 10372-C-2-A BO. JANOPOL (NOW JANOPOL OCC)	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-99396		366	82,350.00
R-24	LOT 12 BLK 7 RAMONITA COUNY HMS,DARASA.	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-101091	24	40	186,320.00
R-29	LOT 23 BLK 12 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, BRGY DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-101004	24	40	180,080.00
R-28	LOT 24 BLK 02, VILLA CORAZON SUBD., BO SANTOR	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-95043	20	110	268,000.00
P-19	LOT 63 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91972	28	40	188,240.00
Q-7	LOT 48 BLK 1,RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, DARASA	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	T-91973	24	40	202,340.00
R-25	LOT 46 BLK 1 RAMONITA COUNTY HOMES, BRGY. DARASA,	TANAUAN	BATANGAS	101089	24	40	186,320.00
O-61	LOT 8 BLK 13,BO.WAKAS, SN DIEGO VILLAGE,WAKAS	TAYABAS	QUEZON	T-411253		180	270,000.00
O-60	LOT 7 BLK 13 LITA SUBD, BRGY WAKAS	TAYABAS	QUEZON	T-396151		180	234,000.00
R-100	LOT 6 BLK 6, CASSANDRA VILLAGE, BRGY. PLALIG	TIAONG	QUEZON	T-416072		193	164,050.00
N-112	LOT 29 BO. LALIG	TIAONG	QUEZON	T-384622	126.80	349	640,760.00
J-30	LOT 16 BLK 2 BGY SAN ISIDRO	VICTORIA	OR MINDORO	T-103236		250	100,000.00
R-64	LOT 4660-B-5-A, BO. BANCURO (MERIT)	VICTORIA	OR MINDORO	T-113750	94.88	358	226,192.54

Selling Price is subject to adjustment
Several units are available at Ramonita County Homes, Brgy. Darasa, Tanauan City, Batangas and Sto. Nino Villa de Lipa II, Sabang, Lipa City, Batangas

Interested buyers, brokers and developers may visit the Foreclosure and Acquired Assets Administration Division (FAAA), Pag-IBIG Fund Lucena Regional Office, 2nd Flr. Lucena Grand Central Terminal Bldg., Lucena City, or you may call at Tel. Nos. (042) 710-35-37/710-35-38.

(Sgd.) CESAR V. ALMENDRAS
Regional Manager/Co-Chairman
Committee on Disposition of Acquired Assets

(PDI – December 16, 2005)

OBITUARIES

TOMASA DIZON CRUZ

of Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga

Peacefully joined her daughter ***Felicitas*** *and our Lord on December 13, 2005 at the age of 87.*

Her bereaved son **Joel** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Mary Memorial Chapels, Brgy. Cutcut, Angeles City.

Cremation will be on December 18, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at Eternal Gardens Crematorium, Baesa, Caloocan City.

MICHAEL FRANCIS S. GO

Born on January 22, 1969

Loving HUSBAND and FATHER

Peacefully returned to his Creator on December 14, 2005 at the age of 36.

He is survived by his wife CELYNNE; sons MIGGY and ANTON; mother LETTY; parents-in-law JOE and VENI BELARMINO; siblings TINA, JOHN and ROBERT; brother and sisters-in-law JOJO, CORINA and CHINKY; grandparents ROGELIO and AURORA SANTOS. He joins his father JOHN.

He will forever be loved and missed.

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the St. Paul of the Cross Mortuary in SSS Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be on the 18th of December 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

Florentino L. Caculitan, M.D.

of Poblacion, Centro, Baggao, Cagayan

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 5, 2005 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Nena**; children **Noel** and **Marissa**, **Leon**, **Nonoy** and **Jenny**, **Raul** and **Melanie**, **Margot**, **James** and **Jocari**; grandchildren **Mimi**, **Joanne**, **Janine**, **Jonjon**, **Ranielle**, **Rap-rap**, **Raleon**, **Carelle**, **Florence** and **Jameson**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Poblacion, Centro, Baggao, Cagayan.

Interment will be on Monday, December 19, 2005 at 8:00 am.

BUSINESS

New power agency to tackle looming crisis

Executive order also calls for a 5-year strategic energy plan

By Abigail L. Ho

RECOGNIZING THAT THE COUNTRY may be on its way to an energy crisis, Malacañang has issued an order creating a new agency that will focus on forging private sector partnerships for energy projects.

EO 474, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, mandated the creation of the Philippine Strategic Oil, Gas, Energy Resources and Power Infrastructure Office (PSOGERPIO) under the Office of the President.

"Given the crisis situation that has dawned upon our economy, there is an urgent need ... to focus and intensify all efforts to promote, develop and fast-track crucial private sector-led oil, gas, energy resources, power and other energy projects," the EO states.

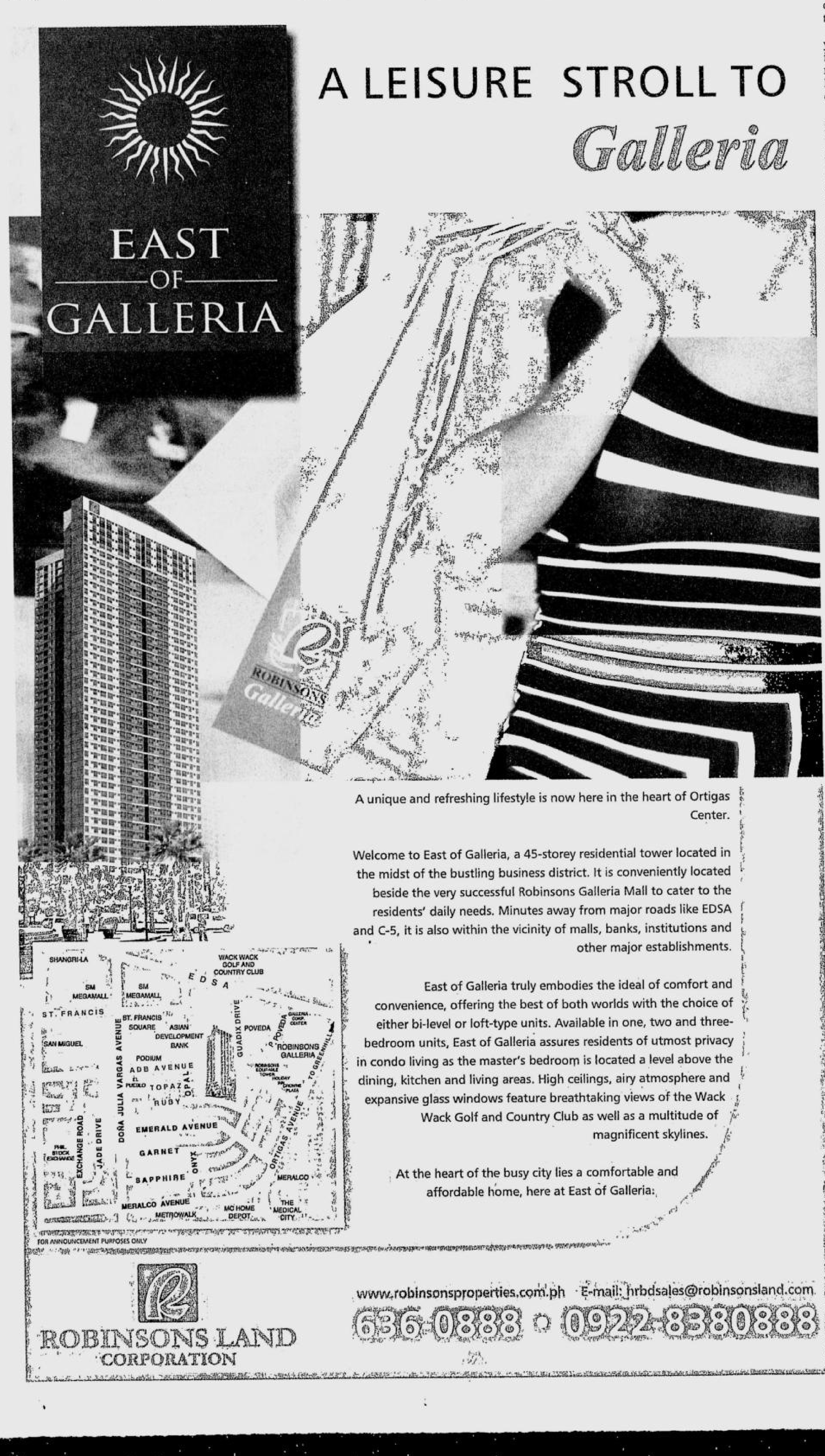
Time constraints, it adds, compel the government to create an agency that will coordinate the efforts of the Department of Energy, as well as other government departments, in attracting investors to infuse capital in the country's energy sector.

According to the EO, the agency will develop a Five-year Philippine Energy Crisis Strategic Plan (PECSP 2006-2010), outlining all strategies to avert an impending energy crisis.

With the 5-year plan in place, the new office will then focus on promoting, developing and accelerating the implementation of private sector-led projects in various energy sectors including oil, gas and coal.

The PSOGERPIO will also be responsible for securing funding for such projects by negotiating with public finance, bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance institutions, as well as with the private sector.

The President, who signed the EO on Nov. 30, has yet to appoint a head for the new agency.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A unique and refreshing lifestyle is now here in the heart of Ortigas Center.

Welcome to East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower located in the midst of the bustling business district. It is conveniently located beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and other major establishments.

East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and three-bedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.

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Bank lending went up 1.3% in October

By Doris C. Dumlao

LENDING BY THE COUNTRY'S COMMERCIAL banks went up by 1.3 percent in October to about P1.5 trillion from a year ago.

The loans were used mainly to fund the requirements of financial institutions, real estate and business services.

Although the expansion was below the year's highest loan growth level of 6.9 percent in May, it was better than the 0.5 percent annual growth posted the previous month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

"The continued pattern of sluggish credit activity has been linked to the banks' cautious lending stance alongside weak corporate credit demand," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "This underscores the need to further strengthen the banking system and encourage banks to engage in more lending activity."

On a month-on-month basis, commercial bank loans showed a decline of 0.4 percent. But it was still an improvement from the 3.4 percent month-on-month contraction in September.

Financial institutions, real estate and services sector contributed 2.43 percentage points to loan growth.

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry contributed 0.77 percentage point, while the transportation, storage and communication as well as community, social and personal services shared 0.77 and 0.54 percentage point, respectively.

The expansion in loans absorbed by those sectors offset the contraction registered in the following sectors: wholesale and retail trade (1.28 percentage points); manufacturing (0.69 percentage point); electricity, gas and water (0.31 percentage point), construction (0.24 percentage point); and, mining and quarrying (0.14 percentage points).

Tetangco said the BSP remained firmly committed to the restructuring and strengthening of the financial sector by helping banks reduce their stock of non-performing loans.

BIR, BOC get a hand in setting revenue targets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, HEAD agencies of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs, will allow the two main revenue earners of the government to get involved in the setting of their tax and duty collection targets starting next year.

The BIR and the BOC as of October this year failed to meet their collection targets. Both are still struggling to meet their respective targets for 2005.

"To really make sure they (BIR and BOC) meet their targets, we have to analyze what went wrong this year," Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves told reporters. "On their side, they said the targets set were too high."

Teves said the idea was for the BIR and the BOC to set their own targets so that there would be no excuse for not meeting their collection goals.

The move to allow the BIR and the BOC to have a hand in setting their own targets starting 2006 would come in time with the implementation of the Lateral Attrition Law.

The law provides a reward-and-penalty system for BIR and BOC employees and officials. The law will grant bonuses to those who will exceed their collection goals, and hold for possible dismissal those who will fail to meet their revenue-performance targets.

For the first 10 months of the year, the BIR was P8.8 billion short of its collection goal of P449.2 billion for the January-to-October period. The BOC posted an P8.9-billion shortfall compared with its P125.6-billion target for the 10-month period.

Both the BIR and the BOC had said their targets this year were increased by a siginificant amount compared to their last year's revenue programs. In 2004, the BIR was tasked to collect P477 billion, while the BOC was asked to collect P120 billion.

For this year, the BIR should collect at least P546.9 billion to meet its target, while the BOC should contribute P151.2 billion to state coffers.

The BIR and the BOC are hard-pressed to meet their revenue goals. The government has set a budget-deficit ceiling of P180 billion this year. Fortunately for the government, other revenue contributors have been overperforming, thus offsetting the shorfall posted by the BIR and the BOC.

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BUSINESS Friday

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Village weavers cash in on native cloth

CASUAL creation by Sherwin Velasco

Text and photos by Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CANDON CITY—GIVE CORAZON Agosto any image and she will weave it.

The 55-year-old weaver from Barangay Sabangan in Santiago, Ilocos Sur, has been weaving for 30 years, getting the "tawid" or legacy from her grandmother Anna Sagun and mother Ildefonsa Campilan.

"Show me a design just once and I can weave it through memory," she says.

So it came almost 15 years ago when some Tingguian weavers in Abra came to her and showed her their traditional designs.

The Tingguians have been known for centuries for their intricate weaving patterns, including the *tao-tao* (people), small and big diamonds, *sinambaggak* (star), *mata-mata* (eye pattern), horse, *bulong bayabas* (guava leaves) and the whorl pattern or *binakol*.

The demand for "antique" Tingguian blankets had been so great then that they had to outsource to Santiago weavers.

Agosto not only copied the designs but wove in different colors.

Eventually, the Tingguians stopped weaving but Agosto was still producing these traditional patterns in her woven products.

From just two looms that she bought in Vigan City, she now has 30 looms, some heirloom pieces.

At any time, Agosto can gather 30 to 50 weavers, mostly members of the Sabangan Original Loom Weavers Association that she heads, to meet her demands.

"The problem is I'm still poor after all these years," she says. "My only consolation is that my children, relatives and neighbors depend on me for their livelihood."

Part of Agosto's problem is marketing.

Unlike the Vigan *inabel* (cotton weave), which is distinct and saleable because it is plain, thinner and "shinier" since gold threads have been intertwined in the weaving, the Santiago inabel still has to find a major steady market.

Although Santiago has selected the inabel for its "One Town One Product" program by the Department of Trade and Industry, it is nearby Candon City that is more aggressive in promoting the Santiago inabel.

This type of inabel, because of the intricate designs, needs two workers to work on one cloth.

One is the weaver or the "agsidu" and the other stays in front to pass the thread on to the lease rods and heddle sticks to determine the design.

It takes a team three days to make a four-foot long runner.

An inabel blanket sells from P1,500 to P1,800.

Former Ilocos Sur Rep. Grace Singson helped revive the Sabangan weaving industry.

"We have given them financial assistance for capital to some of the weavers to buy materials like cotton," Singson says.

"We also extended assistance in their marketing. It was really a problem 10 years ago, but now it is not so much as they are short of inventory to sell during peak seasons like December and summer."

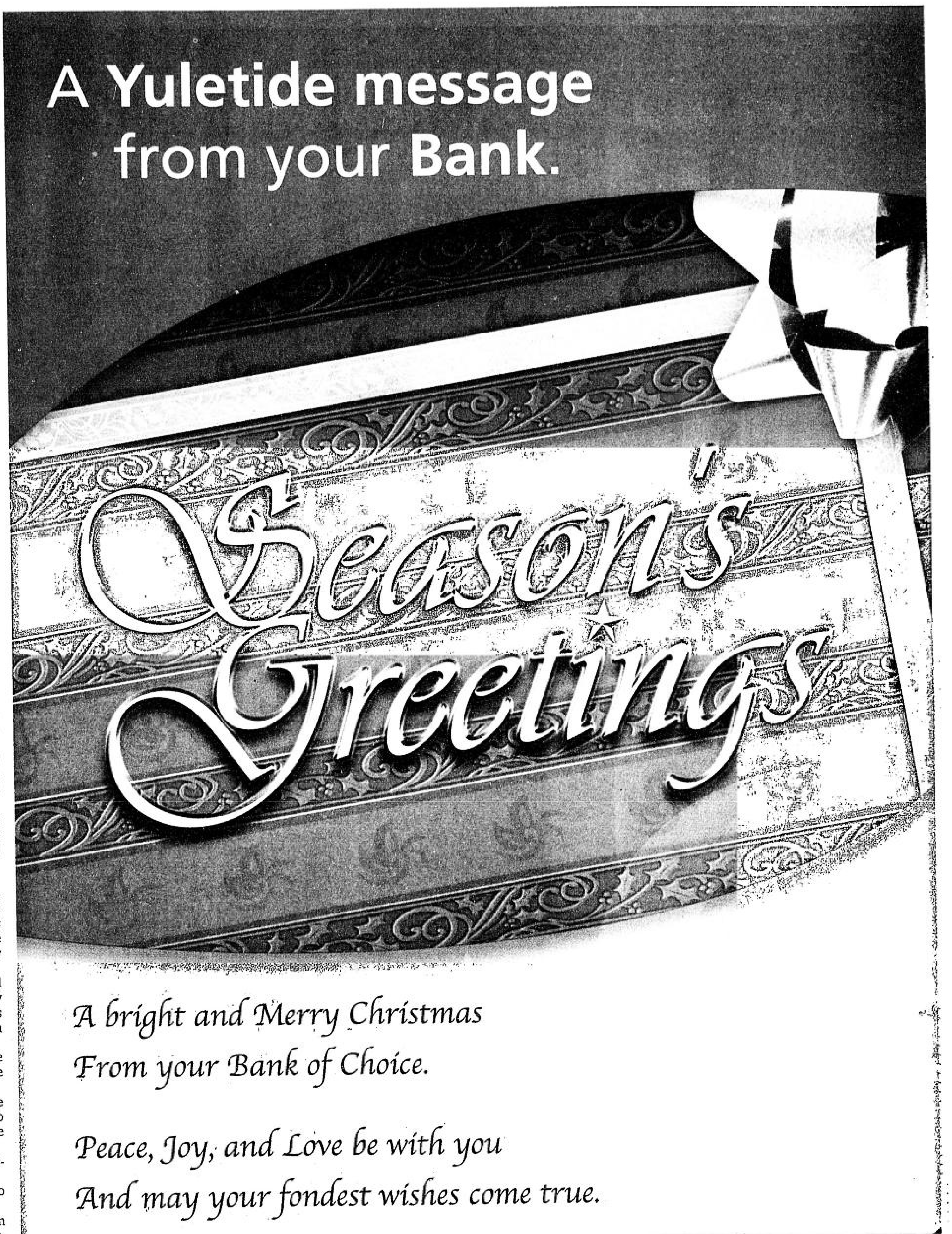
Singson says there are more weavers now and they are, in turn, teaching their children to weave.

"Some of them were trained under Narda's in Baguio (owned by weaver Narda Capuyan) for variation of color and designs," Singson says.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts put up a school of weaving in Sabangan but the project was discontinued.

Another problem is the limited products

VILLAGE/ B2-3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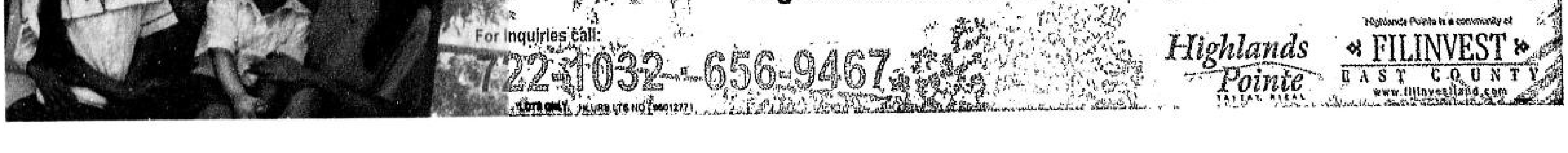
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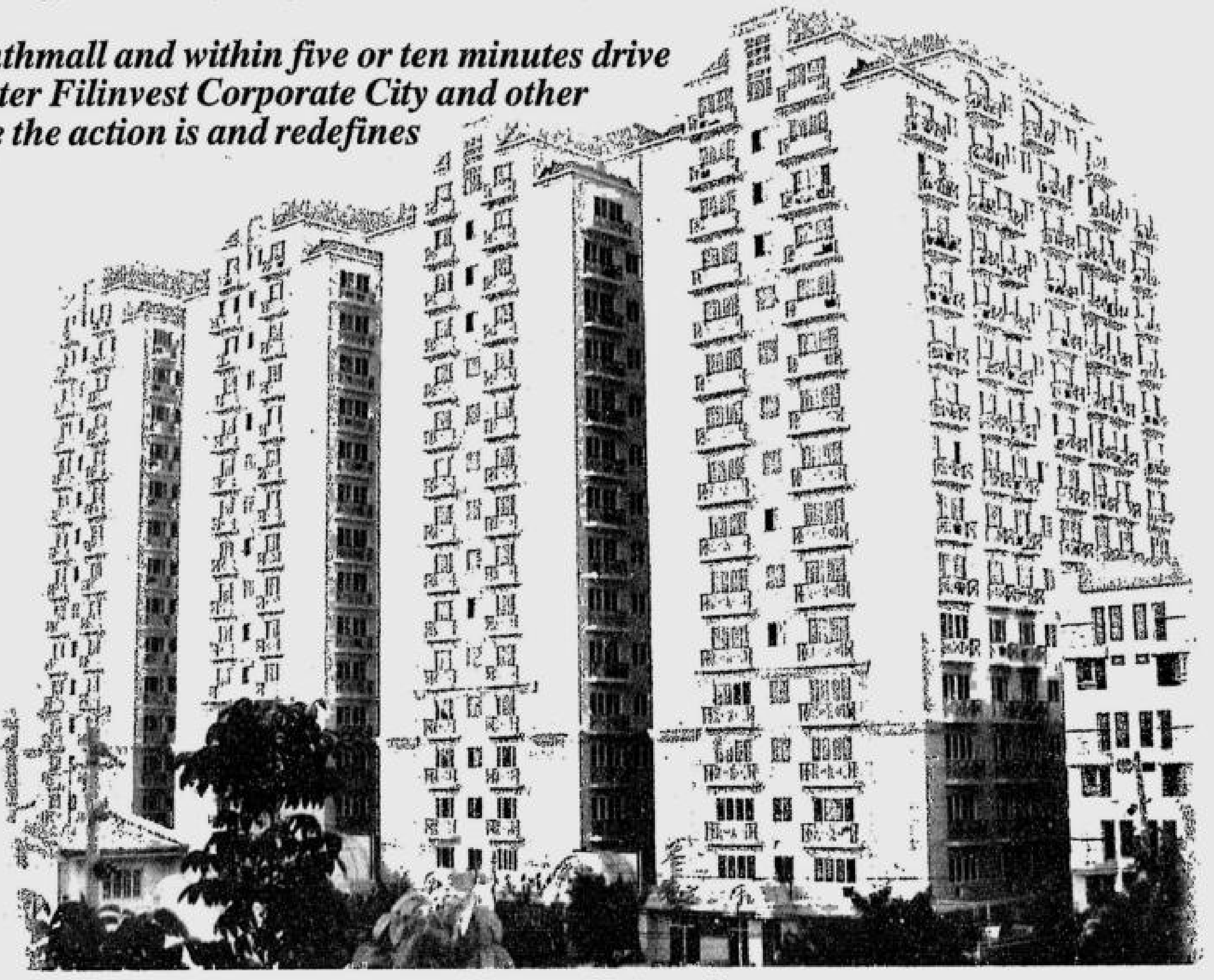
Goldland Properties unveils Almanza Metropolis

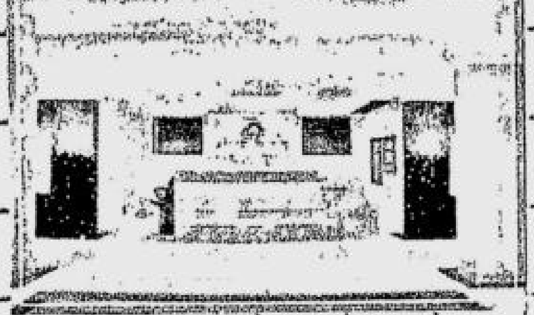
Inauguration & Turn-Over Ceremony
December 17, 2005

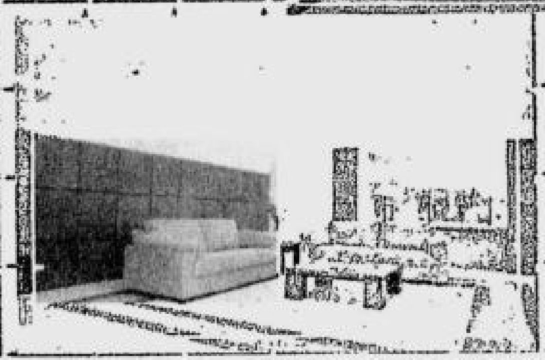
The first high-rise condominium in Las Pinas City, a 16-story elegant twin structure, can be your next home south of Manila.

Strategically located right in front of SM southmall and within five or ten minutes drive from the Madrigal Business Park, Alabang Town Center Filinvest Corporate City and other commercial establishments, the property is right where the action is and redefines urban living in Las Pinas City.



Almanza Metropolis
Victoria Park, Almanza 1, Las Piñas City, M.M.





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Project developer Goldland Properties and Development Corp., reveals that the high-rise, aptly called the Almanza Metropolis, boasts of 617 units, ranging from studio to one-, two- or three-bedroom units perfect for solo living, for couples or even for small families. While Filipino urbanites still have to embrace fully the concept of high-rise living like their counterparts in more prosperous cities of Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul or Singapore, the idea is fast catching up as more and more high-rises are being developed in Metro Manila and in its suburbs.

The idea is simple: As urban development takes on a rapid phase, residential spaces are getting smaller. The practical solution is to expand limited spaces vertically.

Condo living has its advantages though. The Almanza Metropolis, for example, has a swimming pool, a gym and a recreational area within its premises. It has a grandiose lobby similar to hotel lobbies (as shown in the photo), 24-hour security, ample water supply and a commercial area at the ground floor.

And because it is accessible to transportation, a mere 200 meters from Alabang-Zapote Road, one doesn't have to walk very far to the nearest bus or jeepney stop. Just across the street is SM Southmall where one can shop and dine. Parking spaces are also provided for unit owners so one doesn't have to scramble for a space for one's car or leave it unattended in the streets at night.

Renato Uy, executive vice president of Goldland Properties, told that Almanza Metropolis is the result of a private and public sector partnership to fill-up the housing backlog. This is because buyers can avail of the government's housing loan facility, through Pag-IBIG financing, to acquire units at the Almanza Metropolis.

Uy said it was the first time that the government loan facility was opened up to buyers in the area since it is the first high-rise residential building in the city of Las Piñas and both the government and Goldland Properties hope that by making financing available to home buyers, the dream of every Filipino to own a home can be achieved.

According to Uy, almost 100 percent of the unit cost can be financed by Pag-IBIG. Qualified borrowers need only to submit the necessary requirements and fast processing is assured. As the property is also ready for occupancy, there is no waiting time for buyers. They can move in right away once the loan is approved.

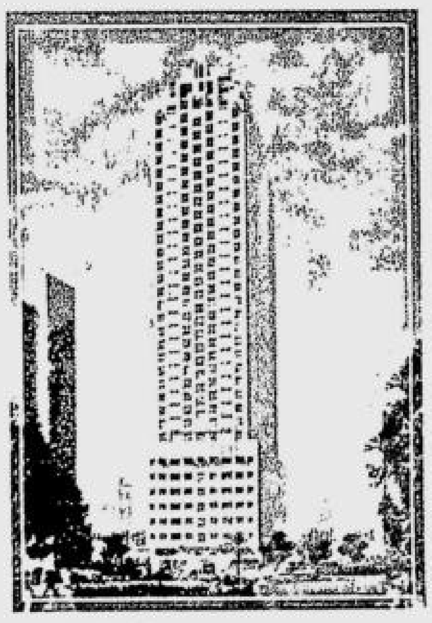
Since its launching, the condo project has enjoyed brisk sales. In fact, there are only few units left for sale. On Dec. 17, as Goldland Properties holds the grand inauguration of the project, it will simultaneously hold the turnover of units to early buyers who have put forward their trust in the project during its pre-selling.

The party will also be an occasion for celebration for the success of the condo project.

In real estate, track record and past experience in project development is important. With close to 20 years experience in building homes and high-rises for the Filipino, Goldland Properties brings to Almanza Metropolis its long years of experience and expertise it has gained through the years from humble beginning of building townhouse units to building high-rise condominiums.

It started its vertical development in 1989 such as the 20-story Goldland Tower and 28-story Goldland Plaza, both located at Eisenhower Street in Greenhills, San Juan. The company was the first one to have embarked on such projects in the area and has now become a landmark.

This kind of expertise was brought to the building of Almanza Metropolis. Part of the company's commitment is to continuously work to develop and provide quality yet affordable housing to the Filipino public. Aside from Almanza Metropolis, it is also currently constructing the Millenia Tower in Ortigas center. Fronting the University of Asia and the Pacific and within walking distance to offices, hotels, restaurants and shopping centers such as Shangri-la Plaza and SM Megamall, the property is another contribution of Goldland to the building of residential spaces that redefines urban living.



Millenia Tower

Right now, almost 60 percent of units at the Millenia Tower has been sold, proof of the growing demand for residential places that are strategically located right within people's places of work and recreation. It is also a tribute to the growing prestige and popularity of Goldland projects to real estate buyers.

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Food chain optimistic of growth in RP

OUTBACK PHILIPPINES RECENTLY hosted the 2nd Asia-Pacific Operating Partners Conference participated in by over 30 Outback officers from Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and the Philippines.

The theme of the four-day conference was "Leading Your Brand."

One of the significant news discussed during the conference was the continued high growth rate of Outback in Asia particularly in Korea which has just opened its 70th store, with plans to reach a hundred branches by 2007. In other Asian countries including the Philippines, Outback maintains a strong presence in their respective markets.

US-based top honchos of Outback International, chief operating officer Michael Coble, chief financial officer Greg Walter; director for Marketing Julie Thomas and director for Food Service Don Gale were the conference's special guest speakers as well as Kevin Crippen, VP for Operations of Outback Asia-Pacific, who is based in Japan.

The Philippines was represented by Bistro Group of Restaurant's president William Stelton; operating partner Eduardo delos Reyes and director for marketing Lisa Ronquillo.

"It was a very productive undertaking in which "Outbackers" shared their insights, experiences and expectations in the restaurant business in general and in Outback in particular. We discussed important strategies on operations and marketing and in leading the brand into the coming year," delos Reyes explained. "We reinforced the core of our business—that Outback is the 'beef authority' and that the brand is synonymous to the best steaks around."

Founded in 1988 in Tampa, Florida, Outback has 800 restaurants in the US alone and 250 branches in other countries.

Outback International has recently become the third biggest contributor of OSSI (which owns and operates Outback Steakhouse US, Carraba's, Roy's, Fleming's, Cheeseburger in Paradise, Leroy Selmon's and Paul Lee's Chinese Kitchen), a public company in the New York Stock Exchange.

Outback in the Philippines was launched in 1997 and to-date, has branches in Glorietta 4, Libis and at the Alabang Town Center.

"We remain confident of the growth of Outback here in the country. Our guests have remained loyal to the restaurant because of our commitment to the quality of food and service. We are positive that we will stay on top of competition even in the midst of some economic uncertainties," delos Reyes said.

All-terrain 'SUVs' for the feet

BILL Mirecki says in footwear, comfort should be the guiding factor.

THE AVERAGE PERSON TAKES 5,000 STEPS a day and walks a distance of 4.3 kilometers. With today's congested urban terrain, a person also invariably changes his direction every minute. Weather changes add more challenges to the pedestrian. People tend to make slower strides on wet pavement, which can be strenuous on the feet if a person is wearing uncomfortable shoes.

With the demands of walking these days, one would wish to simply tie a pair of 4 x 4 all-terrain SUVs to his feet. Bill Mirecki says: You don't have to dream on.

Mirecki is Hush Puppies' vice president for Asia Pacific. He is an authority when it comes to good footwear.

"In footwear, especially with Hush Puppies, comfort is our guiding factor," Mirecki says. "We are trying to show people that technology is comfort, technology is fashion."

Hush Puppies recently unveiled its 2006 Spring-Summer collection, showcasing trend-setting product lines that boast of lightweight, easy-to-wear features and a relaxed, comfortable feel.

The Father of American Casual, as Hush Puppies is also called, has an almost 50-year experience in making casual footwear. Hush Puppies knows the definition of comfort by heart, so much so that American consumers, in a survey conducted several years ago, identify the brand with the word.

"Hush Puppies started in 1958 and generations upon generations have grown up with us," Mirecki says. "Our technology is bred by experience. Or innovations today are a continuing evolution of our past breakthroughs."

Mirecki cites the Street Smart all-weather leather shoe collection as a prime example of Hush Puppies' latest comfort technology.

"Street Smart is an innovation that puts as many benefits and features as possible into a shoe that is also sensible in its fashion," says Mirecki. "It gives consumers a safe, reliable pair of shoes that one can wear day in and day out, with a lot of features and benefits and incorporates one of our best technology out there today: Zero G."

Zero G, Mirecki adds, is Hush Puppies' pioneering technology that fuses lightweight materials into the construction of the shoe. The result is a flexible, light-as-air product that provides comfort all day long.

Aside from Zero G, the Street Smart collection also features durable, waterproof construction. Mirecki explains: "With Hush Puppies, our waterproofing agents are put right into the leather tanning process. So if I take a bottle of water and pour it onto the shoe, I can come back after 24 hours and find that the water has not seeped through."

Since shoes have stitches and the thread and the holes they go through can be a source of leaks, Hush Puppies uses a non-absorption thread that does not soak up water. Hush Puppies also has a process called Seam Seal in which all the seams in a particular shoe go through a special cement adhesive that waterproofs the shoe's joints as it goes through the stitching procedure. And as if that's not enough, the shoe undergoes a rigorous waterproofing test using a Mazer Flex machine, which mimics a foot's walking action in a tank of water.

Bounce is another comfort technology it uses. Bounce is actually a revolutionary pad that fuses dual compounds of rubber and polyurethane that absorbs shock and returns energy.

Bounce technology is also found in its latest collection: 100 percent Relax. This boasts of several patented comfort technologies inside and out.

Hush Puppies store is at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It is distributed by Shoemaker's Shop Inc.

Village ...

From page B2-1

made from the Santiago inabel.

Agosto offers only runners, place mats, coasters and Tingguian blankets.

Late last year, a former senator bought about two roomfuls of Santiago weave. "I have not heard from her but she said she planned to sell them abroad," Agosto says.

Had the senator waited, she could have seen the recent transformation of the Santiago inabel.

As part of the recent festivities reenacting the 1892 Feria Exposition de Candon, a fashion show titled "Lagip" or "Remembrance" featured local designers who used the Santiago inabel in their creations.

The fashion show featured the creations of Gregg Centeno, George Pagaduan and Sherwin de Castro of Candon, Alex Pigao and Angel Estera of Manila, and Eros Goze and Dan Delima of Baguio.

The creations of Pagaduan, Goze and Delima incorporated the Santiago inabel in their ensemble. De Castro made casual jackets and vests from Santiago inabel to complement them with shiny pants made of Vigan inabel.

Goze, who traces his roots in Abra, and Delima used the Santiago inabel in their avant garde creations.

"I find the geometric designs of the Tingguians actually very modern," says Goze. "They are stylish enough for gowns and are actually very comfortable because they are pure cotton."

Agosto says she has made it a point to wear her inabel terno in every trade fair and event she attends. "People always ask me where I bought it. I then proudly tell them that I wove it," she says in Ilocano.

CREATIONS by Eros Goze and Dan Delima using Santiago Inabel

MODEL Megan Hasook wearing a Dan Delima creation

CREATIONS by Eros Goze and Dan Delima

CREATIONS by Eros Goze and Dan Delima using Santiago Inabel

TINGGIAN blanket transformed into a gown by Eros Goze

CREATIONS by Eros Goze and Dan Delima using Santiago Inabel.

WEAVER Corazon Agosto weaving at the start of the Santiago Inabel fashion show

CASUAL creation by Sherwin Velasco

A GEORGE Pagaduan creation (right)

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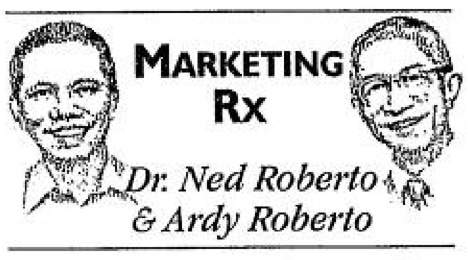
The brand extension temptation


MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT TO HAVE a single brand name for our products that run across different categories from food to non-food items?

A: This practice is called "brand extension"—using a successful brand name for new products that are related or unrelated to the product with the successful brand name.

Let's diagnose by first having a common understanding of what is "effective" and what's "ineffective" in brand extension. Effective brand extension happens when the new brand extension product starts selling and sustains sales growth but does not adversely affect the original or parent brand's sales. There are also cases of "very" effective brand extension. This happens when the brand name helps in getting and sustaining sales for the new brand extension product as well as the parent brand. This leads us to define ineffective brand extension as referring to those cases when the market does not accept the new brand extension product and this failure in turn hurts the parent brand's sales and damages its brand equity.

These definitions are reflected in the practice's mixed history of success and failures. Many of the celebrated and more well known failure cases on brand extension are recounted in chapter 7, The Law of Extension, in Al Ries' book, The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing (co-authored with Jack Trout) as well as in Matt Haig's book, Brand Failures: 100 Biggest Brand Mistakes of All Times. The known success cases are cited in your standard marketing textbooks including Philip Kotler's Marketing Management.

Good example—J&J

The J & J brand name is found in many product categories: baby powder, baby soap, baby shampoo, and baby lotion. While the J & J brand name is on several product categories, it's for a single specific market segment: the baby market segment. That's where you get the brand extension lesson: Extend the brand name to other product categories that are associated with the brand's market segment.

This means that brand extension will not work if your brand name's association is with, say, its main or active ingredient. This is the case of Coca-Cola. When we asked, for example, our marketing seminar participants: "What do you think of Coca-Cola extending its name to intimate wear and comes out with a 'Coca-Cola Bra'?" There's a spontaneous and immediate laughter. That's because the soft drink market has associated the Coca-Cola brand name with its product category: "soft drinks," "cola drink," and "beverage." The brand extension lesson is just as clear: Extending your brand name beyond its associated product category is a recipe for failure.

Virgin Cola vis a vis Coca Cola

Al Ries says that the "Law of Extension" is still the most violated among all the "immutable laws of marketing." He calls it the "extension temptation." Sir Richard Branson's brainchild, Virgin, is an example that Ries gives. Although Branson was able to extend Virgin, from the Virgin music label to Virgin airlines, his extending it to Virgin Vodka, Virgin Mobile and Virgin Cosmetics have failed. Branson's Virgin Cola is not doing any better either.

Some of our clients had challenged this insight. They asked: "How come Coca-Cola is still rated in Interbrand's valuation as the world's No. 1 "most valuable brand." If Coca-Cola were to decide to sell its brand name, the buyer has to pay no less than $67.52 million just for the name. This valuation is actually about an issue that's different from the brand extension. The Interbrand brand valuation is about consumers' top-of-mind awareness for a brand, that is, its "recognizability." Brand extension is about consumers' association of the brand with product categories, that is, its product extendability.

We've also been asked: "So does your Marketing Rx mean that successful brand extension comes only to brands that were able to associate its name with a market segment like J & J did?" The answer is: No to the generalization 'comes ONLY.' The correct conclusion is: "Brands that are able to associate their names with a specific market segment have better chances of succeeding than those that associated their names with something else like associating with a product category."

J&J milk powder anyone?

Consider again the case of J&J. Notice that the association with the baby segment allowed it to extend to many products that mothers use on their babies. Does this mean that the J&K brand name can be extended to ANY baby product?

Someone once proposed that J&J get into the big baby product categories of baby foods and baby milk. The argument went along the obvious business logic that says baby foods and baby milk are after all baby products.

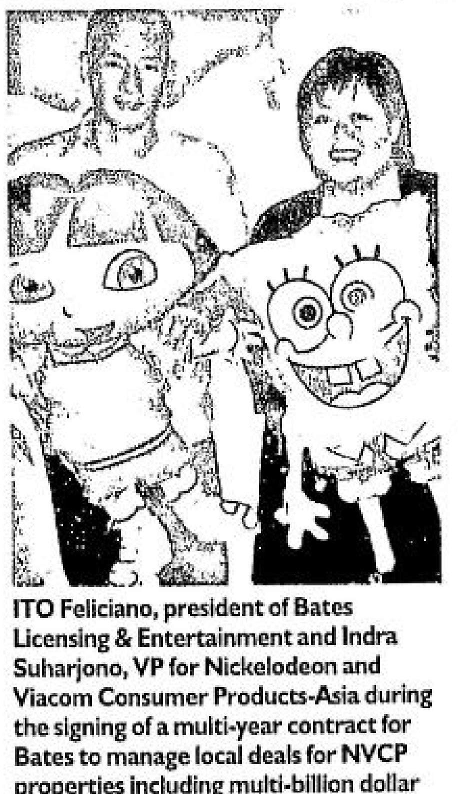
It was smart of J&J to test the concept first and ask the mothers. Mothers said that it was true that they associated the J&J name with many baby product categories like powder, shampoo, soap and lotion. But they also said these were products that were all for EXTERNAL USE. That's where, for them, J & J is an expert and the category "owner". So the product category association stopped there.

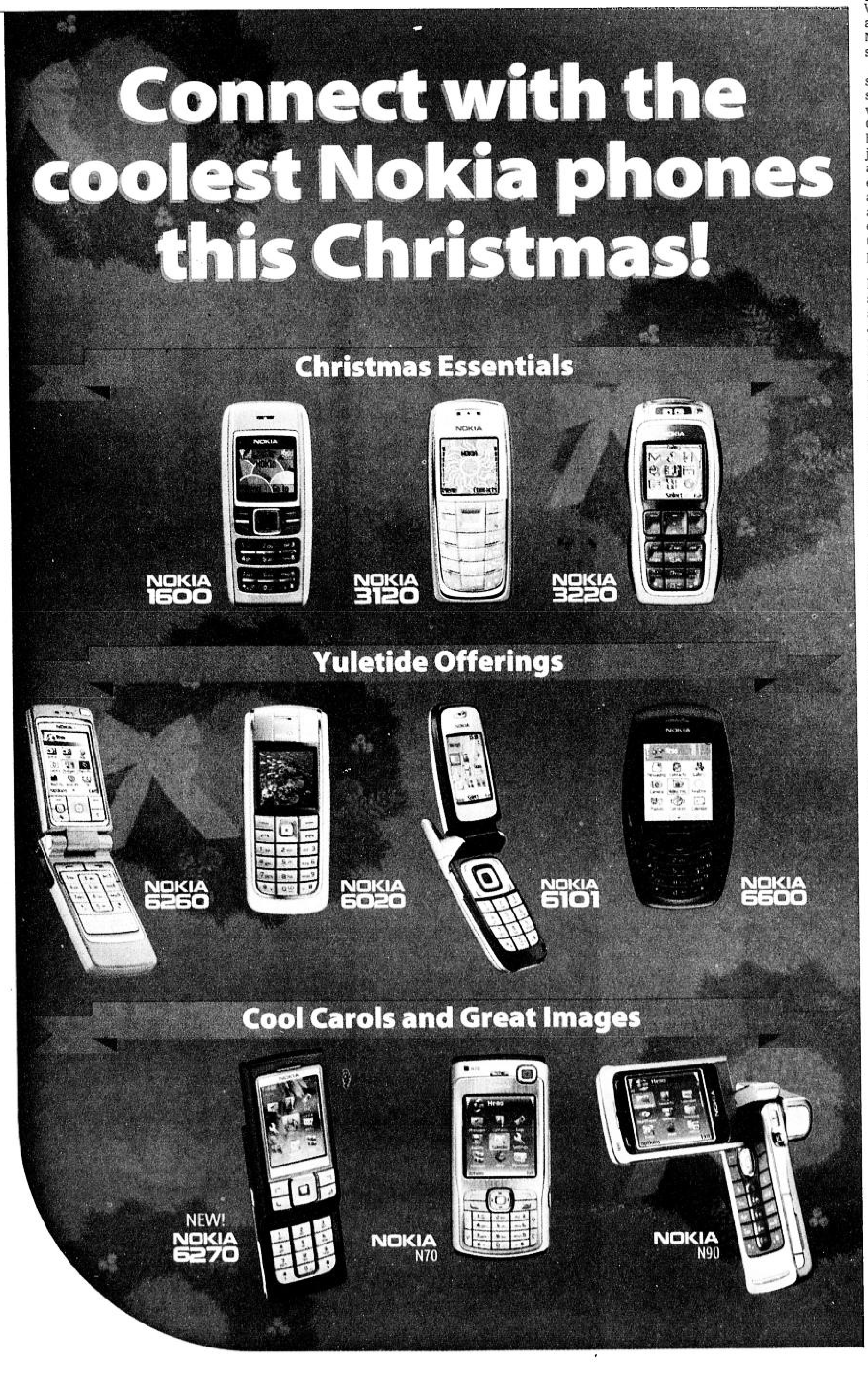
For baby product categories that are for INTERNAL USE, which is the case for baby foods and baby milk, mothers regarded other brands as the "owners." Most cited Mead Johnson and Wyeth, and excluded J & J for these baby product categories.

Our marketing Rx then is: To minimize brand extension failures, check with your target consumers, first your brand name's key market segment association, and second, its fundamental product category association. It won't hurt to re-read The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing.

Have a great Christmas break!

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text at 0919-314-5412. God bless!


ITO Feliciano, president of Bates Licensing & Entertainment and Indra Suharjono, VP for Nickelodeon and Viacom Consumer Products-Asia during the signing of a multi-year contract for Bates to manage local deals for NVCP properties including multi-billion dollar franchise, SpongeBob SquarePants, Dora The Explorer, Blues Clues, Rugrats, Jimmy Neutron, Danny Phantom, Avatar, The Backyardigans and South Park. The deal for Bates to be Nickelodeon's licensing agent is a step forward in NVCP's global strategy to accelerate the growth of Nickelodeon's consumer products business in Asia.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SCULPTURAL number above and below

Bouquet for a beloved

Inno Sotto's latest fashion show was a spectacular tribute to his departed partner, Richard Tann

FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

INNO Sotto, with veteran model Suyen, after the storm

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

WHAT DOESN'T KILL you—or, to be more precise, short-circuit your efforts—can only make you stronger.

Nowhere does this age-old maxim apply than in the case of Inno Sotto, who recently staged his first fashion show after long-time partner Richard Tann passed away in May.

A great deal of questions that needed definite answers were riding on "Beloved," Sotto's 40-piece collection inspired by such popular operas as "Carmen," "Turandot" and "Madame Butterfly," which was shown at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

Whether they care to admit it or not, those who profess to live in their own rarefied universe can't simply ignore the veteran fashion designer. He's simply too big and too talented to be brushed aside.

Excerpts from the said operas plus several others as rendered by New York Metropolitan Opera stars Lea Woods Friedman, Jennifer Hines, Scott Piper, Ryan Taylor, Joshua Winograde and Carrie Anne Matheson, preceded the main event.

Influences

"I love operas," said Sotto, over a late breakfast at a Makati hotel a few days after the show. "Since I was supposed to draw influences from a larger-than-life medium, I was licensed to do certain things out of the ordinary. At the same time, though, I realized that I was in danger of going a bit overboard. I don't want my clothes to look like costumes."

Thus, not a few of Sotto's clothes, which were made from such materials as silk, lace, brocades and various viscose fabrics, had a theatrical, sculptural and Balenciaga-like quality to them. But if you strip away all the styling (especially those scene-stealing wigs), his pieces were as wearable and as striking as most numbers belonging to his past collections.

As usual, the collection was imbued with Sotto's trademark three M's: *mayaman* (textured); *malinis* (well-constructed); and *mabango* (pleasing to the senses).

There were several standouts, but among our personal favorites were the designer's Oriental-inspired coats (or were they robes?) with kimono sleeves and in triangular silhouettes.

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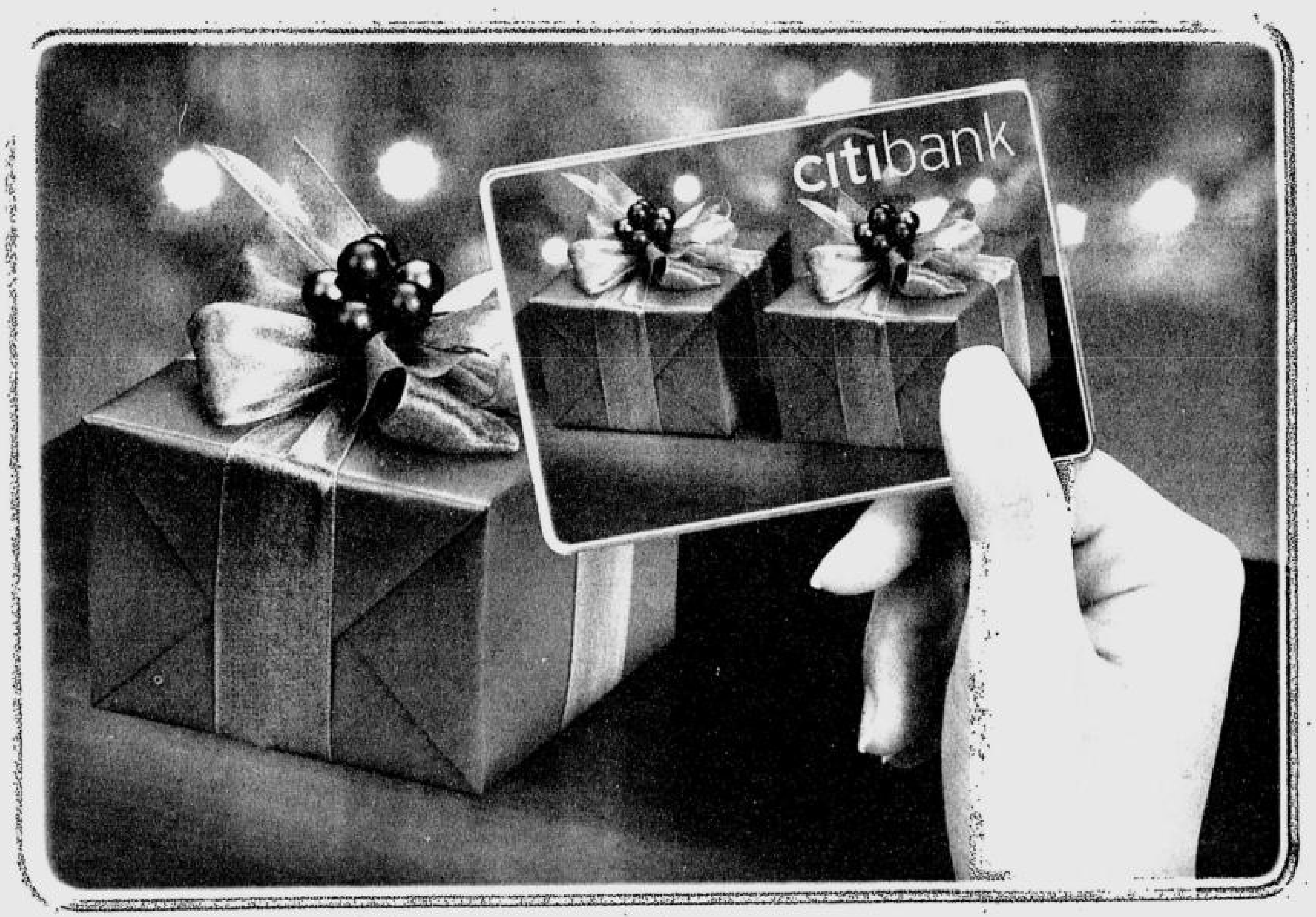

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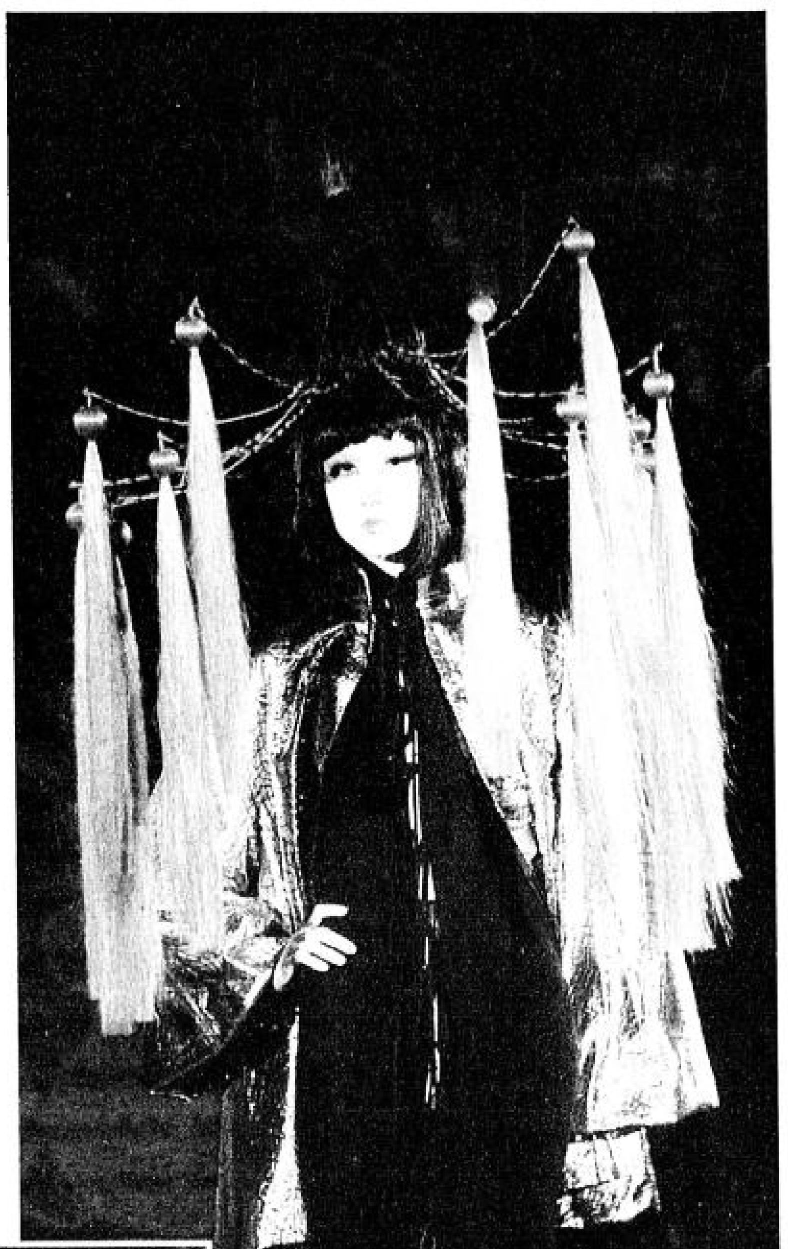
MINOR embellishments

SCENE from a movie

BACK to the past

CONTEMPORARY inspiration

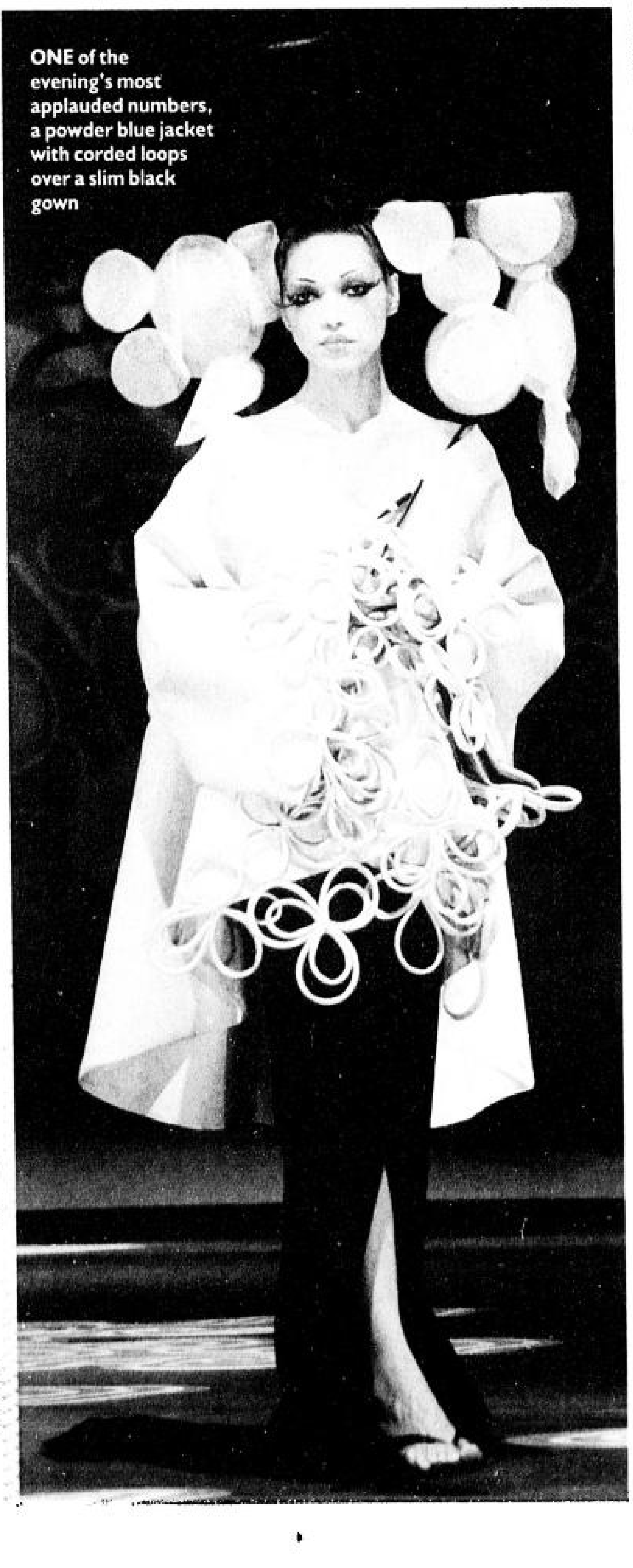


BROCADE jacket over black column

Bouquet for a beloved

VARIATIONS on the samurai pants are bestsellers.

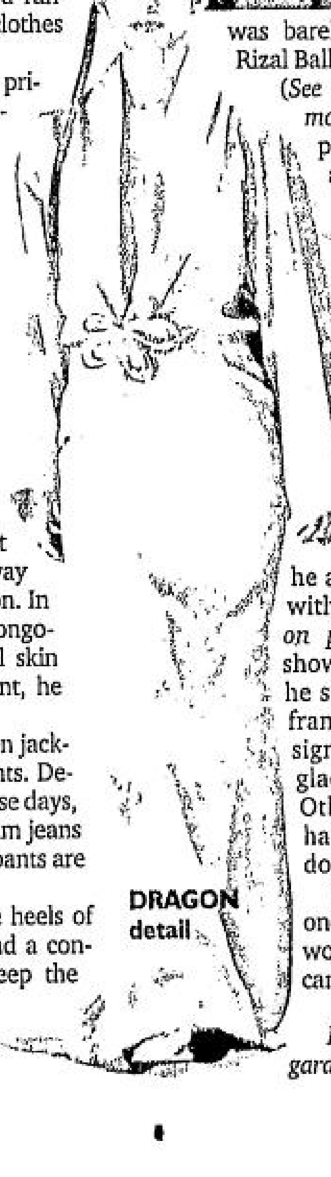
BEHIND-THE-SCENE manipulation



ONE of the evening's most applauded numbers, a powder blue jacket with corded loops over a slim black gown

SIMPLE and wearable

VOLUME on volume



DRAGON detail

BLACK and white with twists on the sleeves

From page C1

Save for some mind-boggling draping and behind-the-scene fabric manipulation, several coats came sans any embellishment. Certain crowd favorites were adorned with latticework detail in the form of corded loops.

"I was constantly editing and reediting my pieces," Sotto said. "To be quite honest, I felt a bit disoriented this time because there was no one before the show to get a reaction from."

While all sorts of rumors were swirling around Sotto and his purported eventual demise from the scene, the veteran fashion designer—minus his No. 1 critic-cum-collaborator—was busy laying the foundations to his show, which Tann himself first hatched (including the seemingly apt title) as early as March.

It wasn't about proving his detractors wrong, Sotto said, but a pure and simple case of honoring a commitment.

With Tann out of the picture, Sotto, in between occasional crying fits, had to pull himself together to personally attend to a thousand-and-one concerns, from the music down to the set, as recent as September. He also sat down with makeup artist Patrick Rosas and people at Bergman wigs to come up with the right look for his pieces.

Indeed, certain hairpieces resembling pagodas, giant bows and galleon sails, were spectacles in themselves. (*See related story on p. G4.*) Rosas and his team had to resort to exaggerated makeup to keep in step with the operas' characters as well as the fantasy wigs, which, said Sotto, put an exclamation point to an otherwise contemporary collection.

Nelson of Toni & Guy did the hair of certain models who didn't wear wigs. He also styled the China chop wig worn by Joann Bitagcol.

Although he had collaborators in the persons of director Melvin Mojica, set designer Gino Gonzales and lighting designer Shoko Matsumoto, Sotto proved to be as hands-on (or perhaps obsessive-compulsive?) as ever. Thank goodness he didn't forget about the clothes.

Inspiration

To keep predictability at bay, Sotto opted to draw inspiration from several characters before putting them together in certain pieces. Thus, a few fitted and floral- and dragon-embroidered pants paired with knee-high boots (reportedly inspired by certain male characters) and tasseled shawls were worn by women. Like mahjong pieces, there was also a random quality to the sequence of clothes as they appeared on the ramp.

With or without the wigs, the private show had its fair share of exclamation points as daring models bared their bodies either in loose or fitted coats, jackets and overlays made of lace and various diaphanous materials.

"There was a mixing of influences except for Japanese-inspired pieces because historically, the Japanese culture has always been pure," said Sotto.

A pair of leopard-printed numbers was Sotto's concession to contemporary fashion. He admitted nowhere in any of the operas was leopard skin worn. But trust the designer to find a way around such an obvious limitation. In ancient China, especially near Mongolia, people used to sling animal skin over their shoulders as an accent, he said.

Male models wore mostly open jackets and loose-fitting samurai pants. Despite their costume-y quality (these days, anything men wear beyond denim jeans tend to look like costumes), the pants are proving to be bestsellers.

"Since the show came on the heels of an opera, I had to somehow find a connection," he said. "I had to keep the evening's energy up."

Well, Sotto got the needed jolt, all right. The fashion show was barely halfway through when the Rizal Ballroom's lights flickered and died. (*See Thelma San Juan's column for more on this.*) Almost 30 minutes passed before Manila's bejeweled and perfumed set, who had to rush earlier to the nearest exits, could go back to their seats.

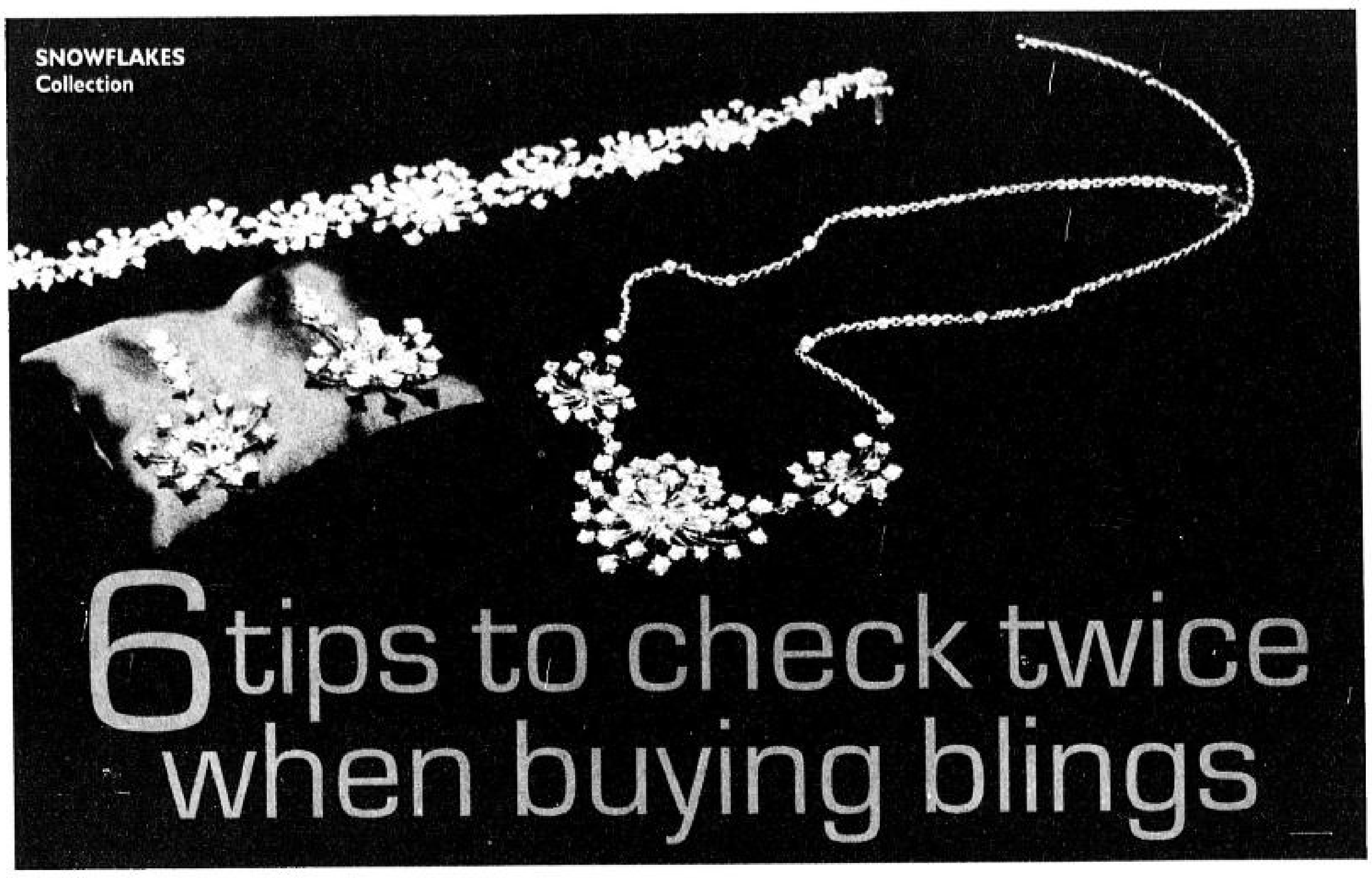
Cry for help

Amid the absence of dramatic lighting (poor Matsumoto), the hotel's management decided to run the fashion show again from the top.

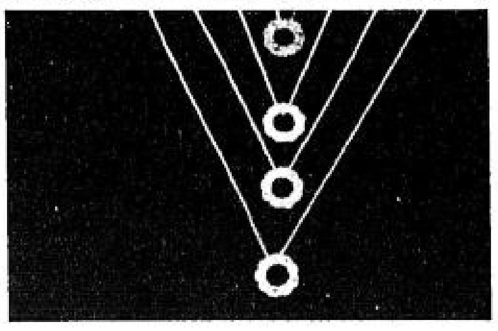
And where was Sotto amid all this commotion? He remained calm as he awaited instructions backstage with his models. (*See related story on p. F4.*) Proceeding with the show was the least of his concerns, he said. As he held on to a pocket frame with Tann's picture, the designer found himself saying, "I'm glad you're not here anymore. Otherwise, this is going to be a handful for you. Richard, please do something if you can."

Well, Tann probably did. From one beloved to another, from one world to the next, the cry for help came clear and was answered.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph


SNOWFLAKES Collection

6 tips to check twice when buying blings


CHRISTMAS Ensemble Collection

WHETHER BUYING DIAMONDS TO deck yourselves with or as a gift to a very special someone, it always pays to get advice from an expert.

Design and gemological consultant Sandra Alfonso Olfato shares the following tips with INQUIRER readers to make Christmas jewelry hunting easier.

1 **Arm yourself.** Beyond knowing the four C's (color, cut, carat, clarity), familiarize yourself with the Diamond Grading Chart that compares the different international diamond grading systems, and thus gives a fair "apples to apples" comparison of diamond characteristics.

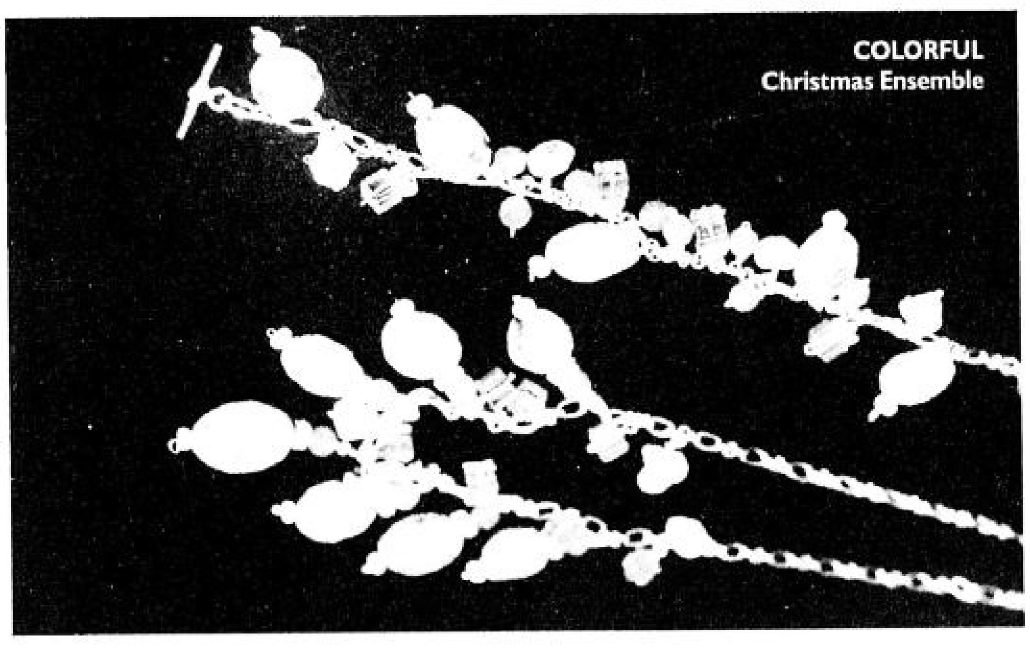
2 **Check the papers.** When choosing diamond solitaires, look at the certificate that accompanies the piece, and consider this question: Does the diamond being shown match the one in the certificate?

The cut grade is the most important factor among the four Cs, and is labeled from Excellent to Poor. Pay close attention to the percentages on the certificate: most appealing table percentages range from 58 percent-63 percent. Culet is the bottom tip of the stone, and the preferred range is "none," and acceptable ranges are "very small" to "small."

Anything larger than these descriptions downgrade the value of the stone. The Girdle of the stone (with attachment) is the side section where the prongs are held. Acceptable girdle thickness ranges from thin to slightly thick, which means it is a circumference that is safe when the stone is being mounted.

Emerald, heart, marquise, oval and pear are some of the fancy shapes of cut stone, and the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has a guide of preferred ratios to know if it is a pleasing shape from a gemological point of view. The ratios are simply calculated by dividing length by width, and the table will show if it is within the appealing range.

The "bowtie effect" is another point to observe. It is the darkening of the center in fancy-shaped diamonds. A dark bowtie hinders the brilliance of the diamond, therefore lowering the value of the stone.


COLORFUL Christmas Ensemble

STUNNING medallions

CHRISTMAS ensemble

3 **Check the artistry.** The Istituto of Europeo di Design (IED) has the following guidelines for assessing the degree of workmanship and artistry of the stone.

The shape of the jewelry should look smooth and fluid, blending with the personal taste of the prospective buyer. The best sources of design are from nature, therefore avoid designs that are too complicated, exaggerated, odd, unnatural or heavy.

Workmanship can be tested by the fineness of the mounting. The prongs should be well-closed and should not snag the fingers or clothes. The back should not have bubbles or bumps and should be equally clean as the front. Locks are crucial for safety, especially when much movement is inevitable.

True artistry must also have elements of multi-functionality. This means, for example, that an ordinary stud may be converted to a dangling piece. Versatility is good.

It is untrue that the shape of one's face should match the shape of the jewelry. A woman deserves to wear whatever catches her eye and makes her feel good.

4 **Ask the right questions.** For mounted settings, ask for the number of pieces of diamonds and the total carat weight, then divide the total carat weight by the number of stones to get the size per stone. This is crucial to get the fair market value of the kind of stones used in the mounting. The value of labor and gold and degree of workmanship should be valued separately.

5 **Make price comparisons.** Show the piece to the jeweler and allow him or her to make an assessment of the value. Do not give the price appraised by other jewelers you have compared with. In this way, unethical practices are avoided and you are able to make your own fair judgment.

6 **Trust your judgment.** Learn all you can before diving in, and deal with professionals who have the right equipment, skill, and honesty.

Sandra Alfonso Olfato earned her rank at the GIA in New York and honed her skills in jewelry design and conceptualization at the IED in Milan, Italy. She puts her expertise to good use at PS2, a shop where she retails and customizes jewelry. PS2 is at 2/L, of Power Plant in Rockwell, Makati City.

CHRISTMAS Ensemble necklace

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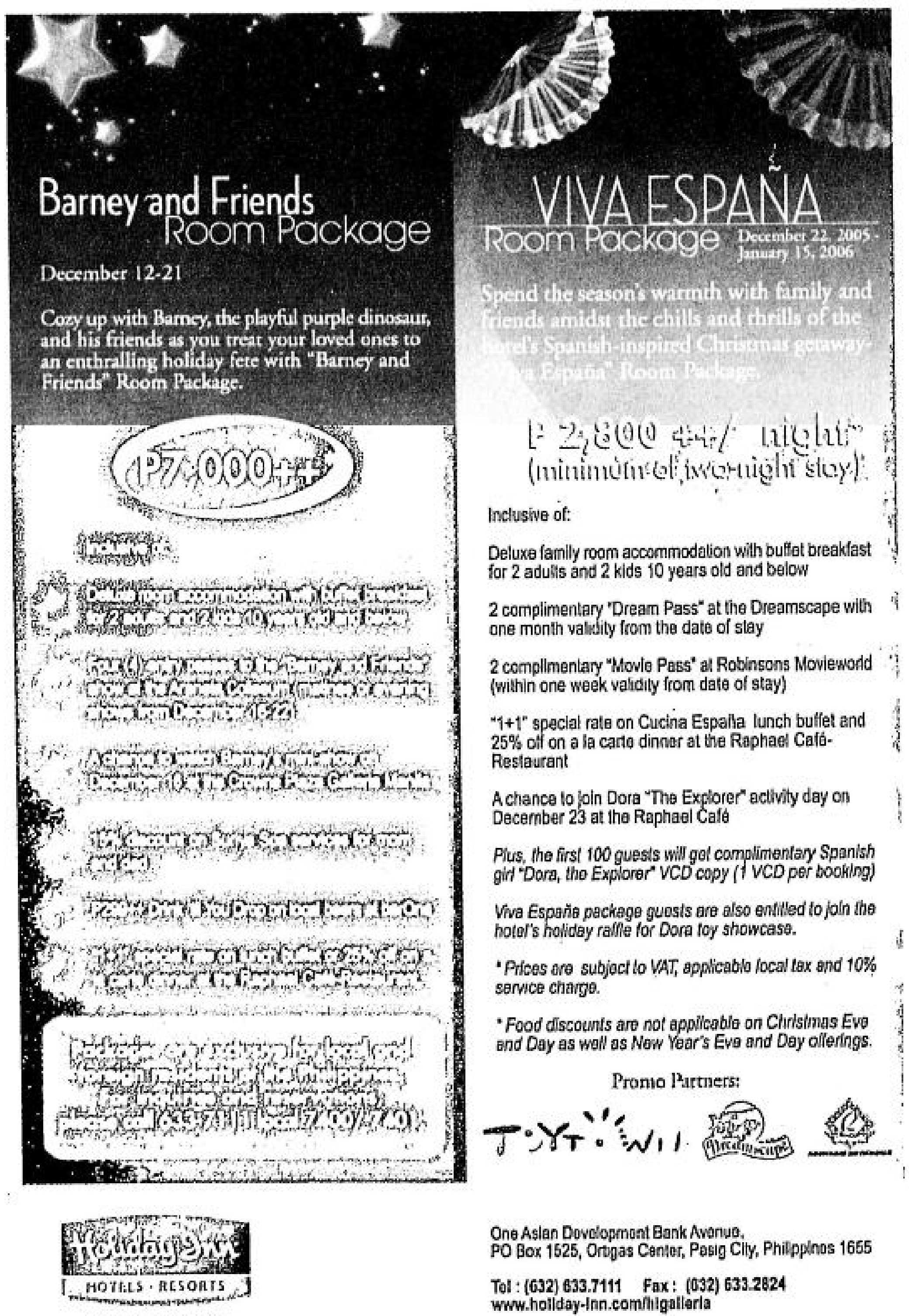
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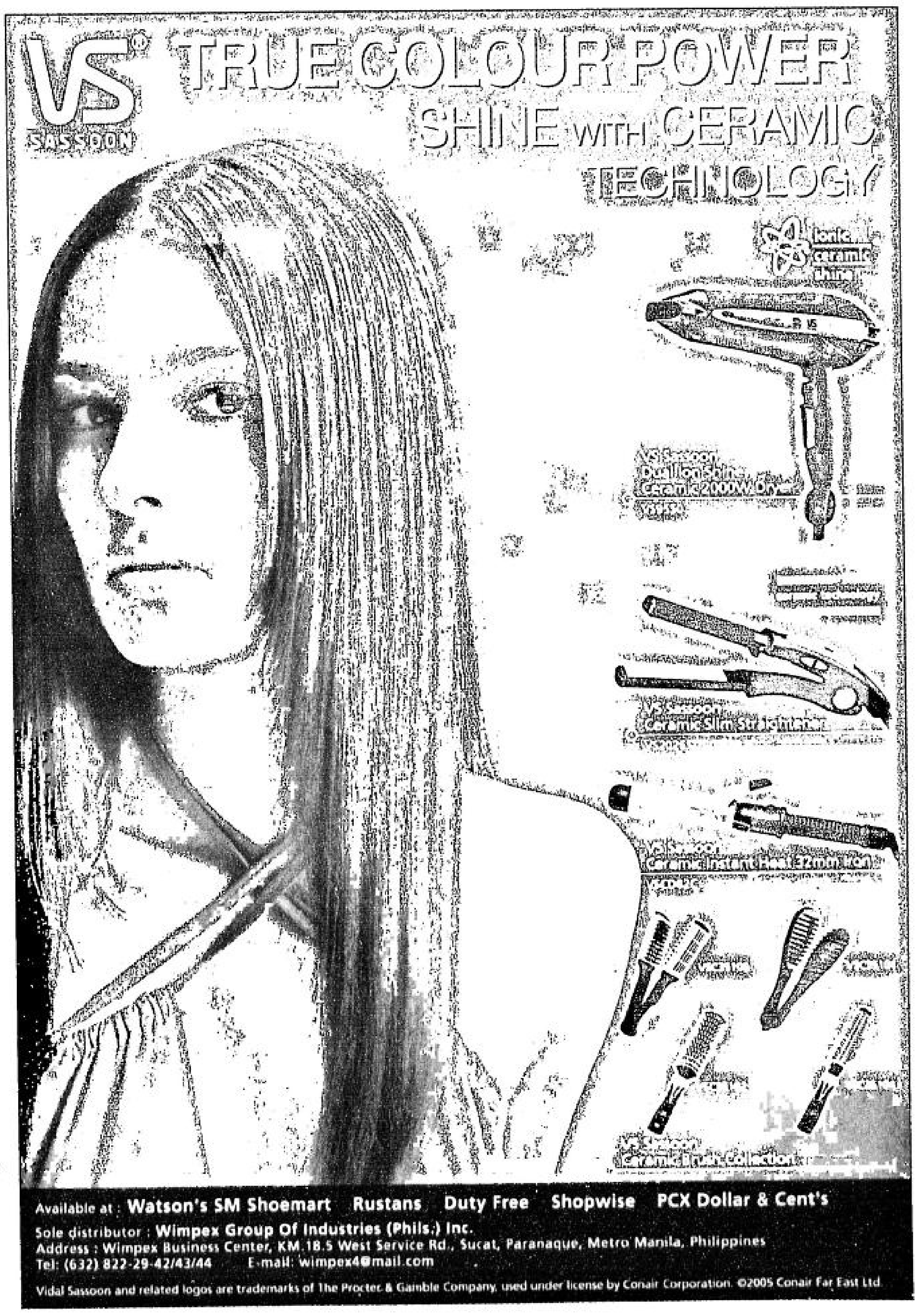

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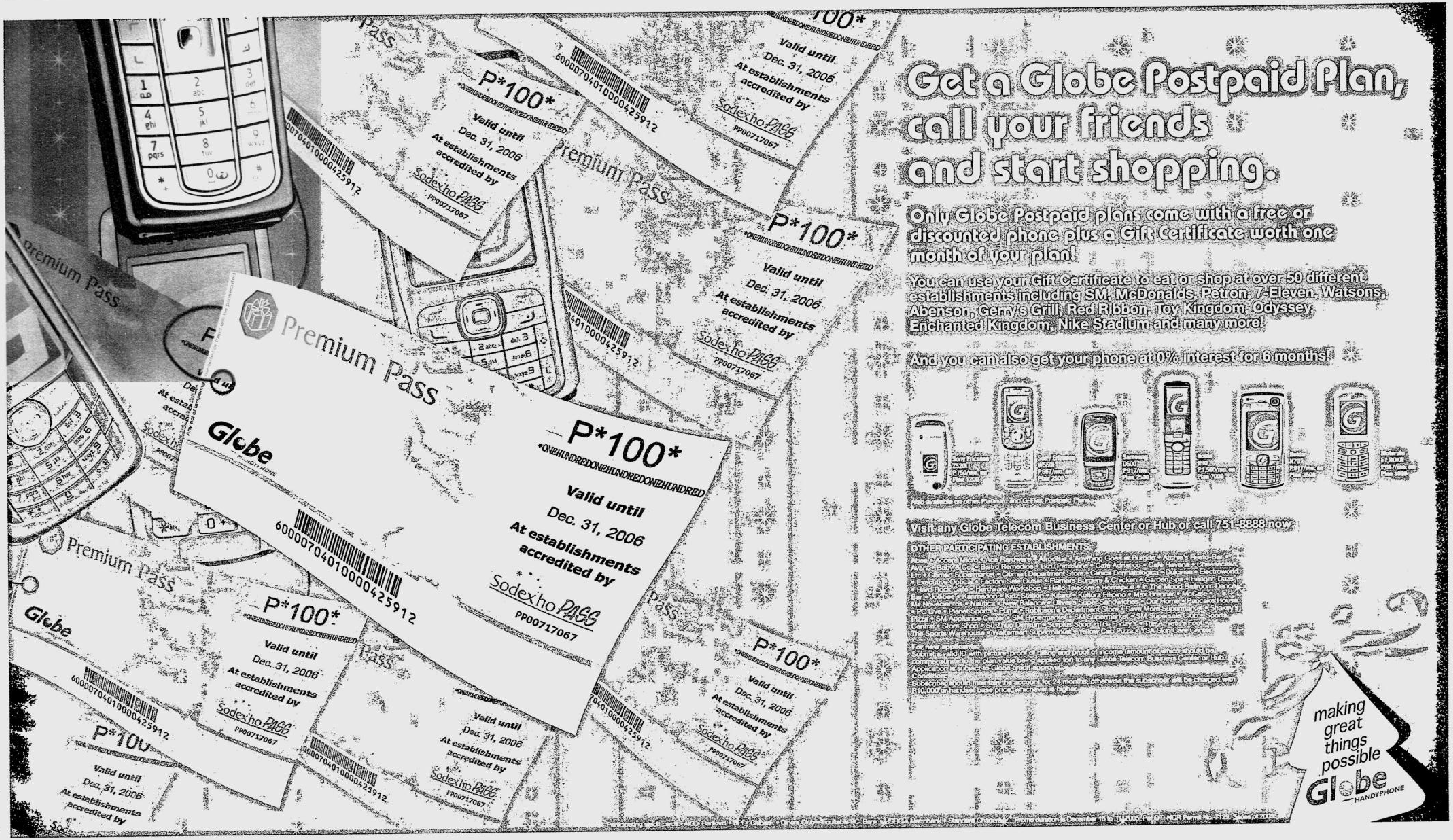

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HERE comes the bride, tribal-style /D2

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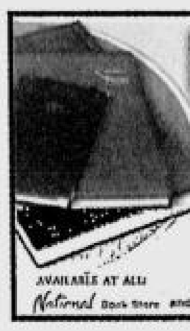
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National Artists Awards body recognizes fashion design

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHAT A CLIFFHANGER last week was!

Thursday we dashed off a short paper on why fashion design should be considered an art worthy of a category in the National Artists Awards to be given next year. It was to be read by the people tasked to make this decision.

Believe it or not, in this day and age, the country is still wondering if fashion design is a "serious" part of culture and if it impacts on society. This, even if in recent decades, major museums in Paris, New York and London have staged retrospectives extolling the design legacy of Chanel, Saint Laurent and Balenciaga, thanks to the seminal efforts of **Diana Vreeland** in her post-Vogue years. In May next year, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art will have lifestyle installations of today's British designers (**Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood**, et al.) in the museum's period rooms. Chaired by Vogue's **Anna Wintour**, it will be the museum's major event in 2006.

Rajo Laurel, for his part, wrote his own argument for his profession, with a bit of emotion. Anyway, we awaited the result of the deliberations the whole of Friday.

Friday night we were thus anxious to run into National Commission for Culture and the Arts chair **Ambeth Ocampo** at "Beloved," a dinner gala of opera and fashion for the Virlanie Foundation and Rotary Gift of Life International. He told us there "might" be a bit of good news in this regard. Ambeth and the NCCA and CCP officials had just convened to vote on the issue. Shortly after, CCP president **Nes Jardin** texted to say that fashion design had been voted into the National Artists Awards, under Design in the category of Architecture, Design and Allied Arts.

Whether or not a Filipino couturier receives the award next year, this development is still a major stride for Filipino fashion design. Years from now, looking back on this phase, designers will have Nes and other enlightened culture officials to thank for it.

Dressiest event

Shangri-La Makati Friday night saw the dressiest and biggest social event of '05. Men came in black tie and women in long gowns to "Beloved," which featured a full-course dinner, well-loved opera arias sung by artists from the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and **Inno Sotto**'s 40-piece collection. A bonus for the couch potatoes of the '70s was the appearance of that decade's TV star, **Chad Everett** ("Medical Center"), who gave a warm talk about the Gift of Life. **Joanne Rae Ramirez**, the first in our table to recognize him, went for an autograph.

For the champagne cocktail reception, the ballroom foyer was wall-to-wall with well-decked bodies. The ballroom was draped in sheer black fabric, from the ceiling to the walls. Instead of ballroom chairs, tiffany chairs were arranged around the round tables (at, at least, 200 grand each)—an instant sign that the organizers spared nothing to make this the event of the year. The co-chairpersons were all there—Ambassador to Washington **Albert del Rosario, Mely Hechanova, Lou del Rosario** and **Imelda Cojuangco**, who strode into the ballroom after the crush of guests.

The floral centerpieces (mostly roses, tulips), in deep hues of red and lilac nestled in glass bowls of various shapes, were simply beautiful—another work by **Robert Blancaflor**. That the affair was a labor of love of **Marietta Santos** and **Josine Elizalde** was highly apparent. The attendance was impressive—the A-list of the year—and the turnout of jewelry just as impressive, if not more. Ms Hechanova unfurled the emeralds strung on diamonds on her neck, and Ms Cojuangco's bright-red rubies brought out her milky white complexion. (Yup, it was emeralds vs rubies.) After her miraculous recovery from aneurysm, Ms Cojuangco looked good indeed, especially with her up 'do.

Opera artists **Lea Woods Friedman** (a Kuok on her mother's side, we learned), **Jennifer Hines, Scott Piper, Ryan Taylor, Joshua Winograde** and pianist **Carrie Anne Matheson** rendered their melodies to an appreciative crowd—in between dinner, the first part before the appetizers, the second before the main course.

But easily the highlight was Inno's collection inspired by theater and the opera. Inno didn't disappoint, from the very first numbers of rich opera gowns and breasts-baring (as in two) sheer chiffon.

Fire

However, barely halfway into the show, three tables away from ours at the side of the ballroom, we heard popping sounds, like firecrackers. We looked and saw flames curling up on the sheer black drapes covering the side of the stage. Of course, you wouldn't know and couldn't believe right away what was going on—until the guests seated at those tables stood up, hurriedly walked away, a man among them saying aloud, "Let's get out. Get out!" By that time, the fire extinguisher had been put to work and smoke gradually filled the ballroom. Even as models continued their walk on the ramp, the stage had already been reduced into darkness.

UNITED for a charitable cause. From left: Marietta Santos, Meldy Cojuangco, designer Inno Sotto and Josine Elizalde

Gigi Mabanta talked me into staying put—for the "love of Inno," although I must admit, in my case, it was both for the love of Inno and for the fear of **Auggie Cordero**, whose white embroidered gown I wore and didn't want to ruin in any rush. Guests, however, hurriedly though calmly walked out of the ballroom, straight to the escalator or the lifts. But many, like us, milled about the escalator, anxious to see what would happen next. **Malou Gamboa**, Inno loyalist **Sigalit Djemal**, Gigi, **Carlo Tadiar** and I decided to cool our heels at Conways.

After a short wait, people were beckoned back to the ballroom; where a cool, witty as usual **Jarlath Lynch**, the Shangri-La general manager, apologized for this "hiccup," and said that we could now see Inno's beautiful collection. Although the ballroom wasn't as filled as earlier, it still had a good crowd who stayed just for Inno's masterpieces, among them **Margarita Fores; Ben Chan** and his guests, **Lucy Torres, Kris Aquino** and **James Yap** and **Miguel Pastor**; the Hechanovas and the Concepcions; **Mikey** and **Lizette Cojuangco; Bencab** and

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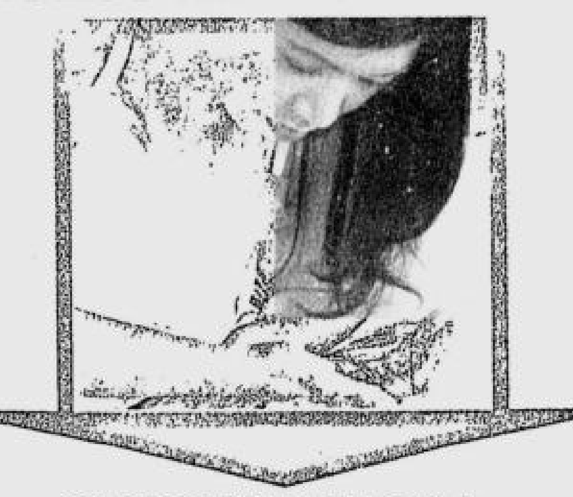

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Find The Perfect Match

WACOAL NEWS!

Wacoal

There are several ways to improve your style and confidence. One very simple way is by wearing the right kind of brassiere. Don't be confused with the overwhelming number of styles available in the market. Each design serves a particular purpose. The key is to know which style will match your outfit perfectly while giving the comfort you need. Remember, your objective is not only to look good, but to feel good about yourself as well. Here are some basic guidelines:

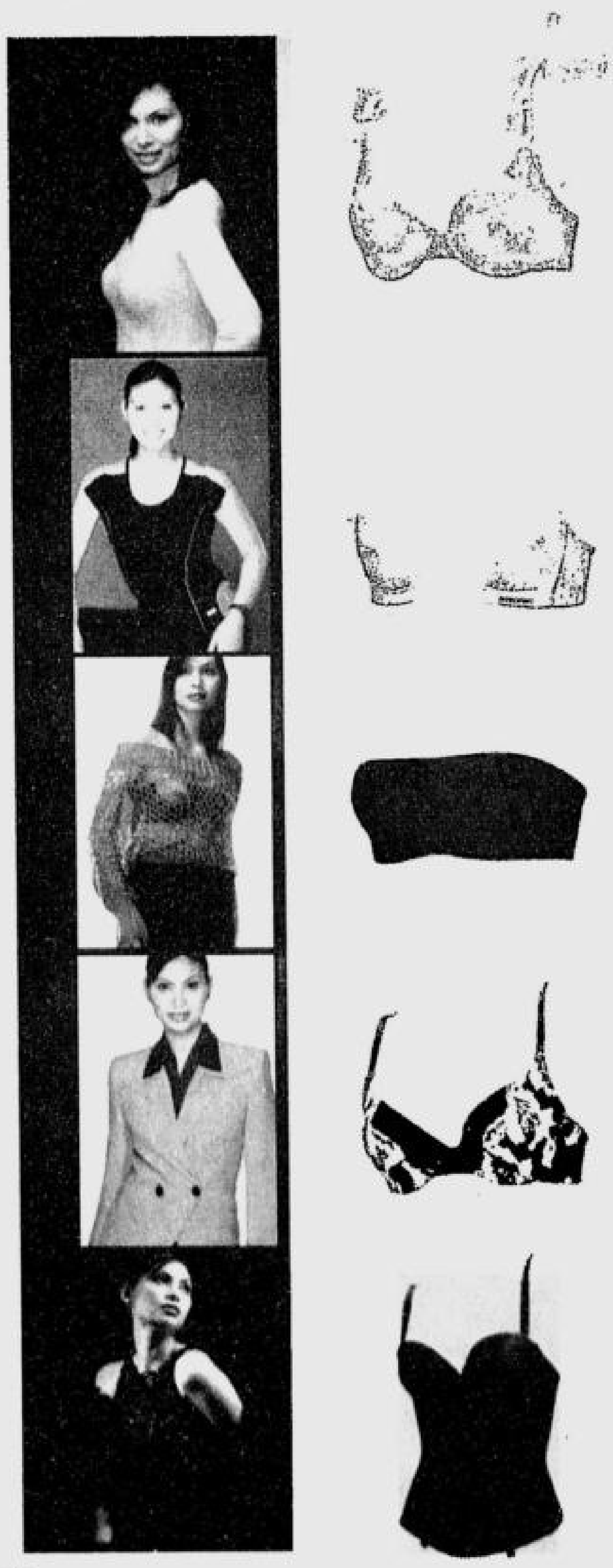
Casual
For shirts and blouses, use a t-shirt bra. Because it is seamless, there won't be any lines or texture to spoil the smooth contour of your body.

Sports
Engaging in sports requires proper support. A sports bra helps to minimize the breasts' movements. The comfort that it provides will consequently help you perform better.

Party
For parties, put on a body bra. You can use it like a normal bra or wear it under a sheer top for a more dramatic look.

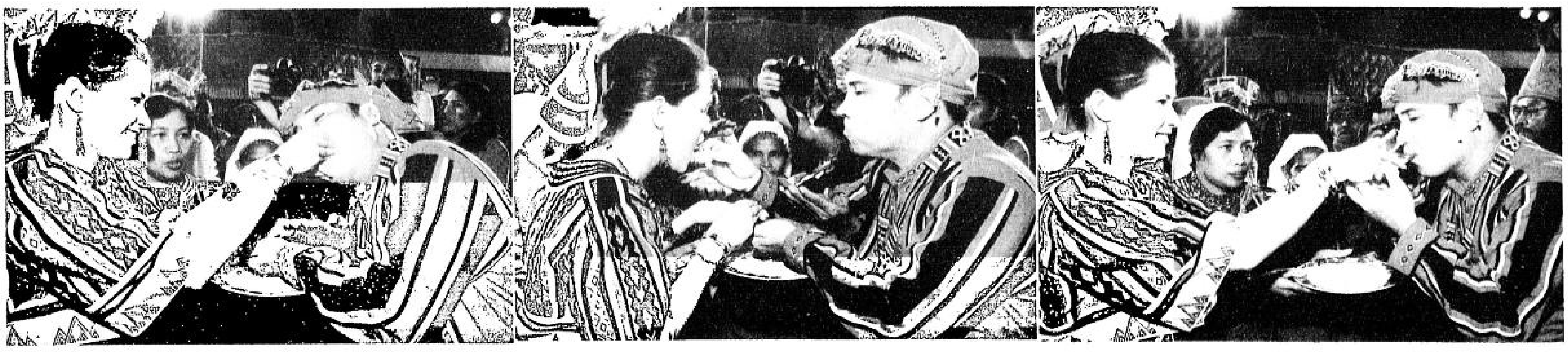
Business
If you are in the corporate field, invest in pointed and laced bras. This design is a perfect match for heavy materials. It will enhance your figure despite the heavy materials of your suits and sweaters.

Formal
If you want to look stunning in formal functions, a wired long lined bra will do the trick. Not only will it give proper support, it will also provide your body a more proportioned contour.



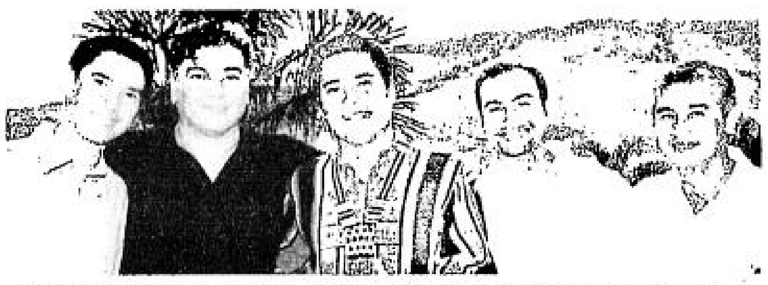
To know more about Wacoal and its products, call the WACOAL CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE at tel. 841-5171, or email us at philwacoal@skyinet.net.

Aside from style, the bra's size, shape and fit are also important. This is the reason behind The Perfect Fit Campaign of Wacoal. Visit any Wacoal outlet and have your measurements taken by experts to ensure that you get the perfect one for you everytime.

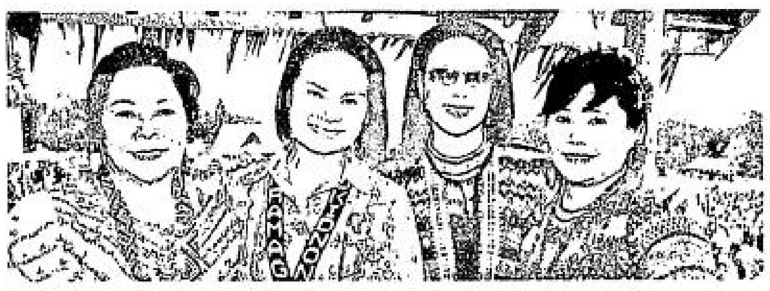


WIFE Audrey Tan feeds her husband Miguel the symbolic rice, and vice versa, then offers him water to drink, water being the source of life.

THE GROOM is escorted by young women of the tribe to the ceremonial site, followed by the mayors and representatives of different Mindanao regions.

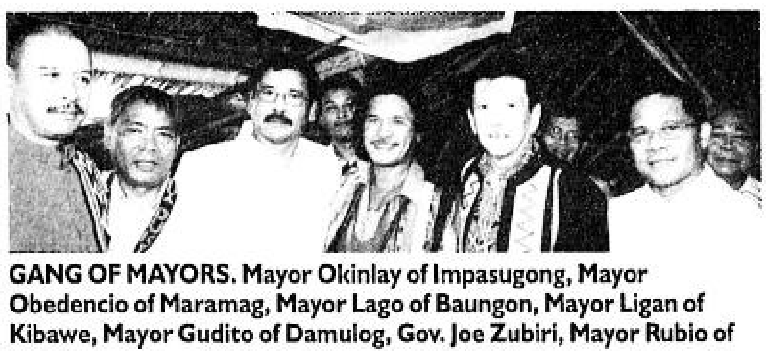


MANUEL Zubiri, Joey Zubiri, Migs Zubiri, Carlo Corro and Albert Alonzo



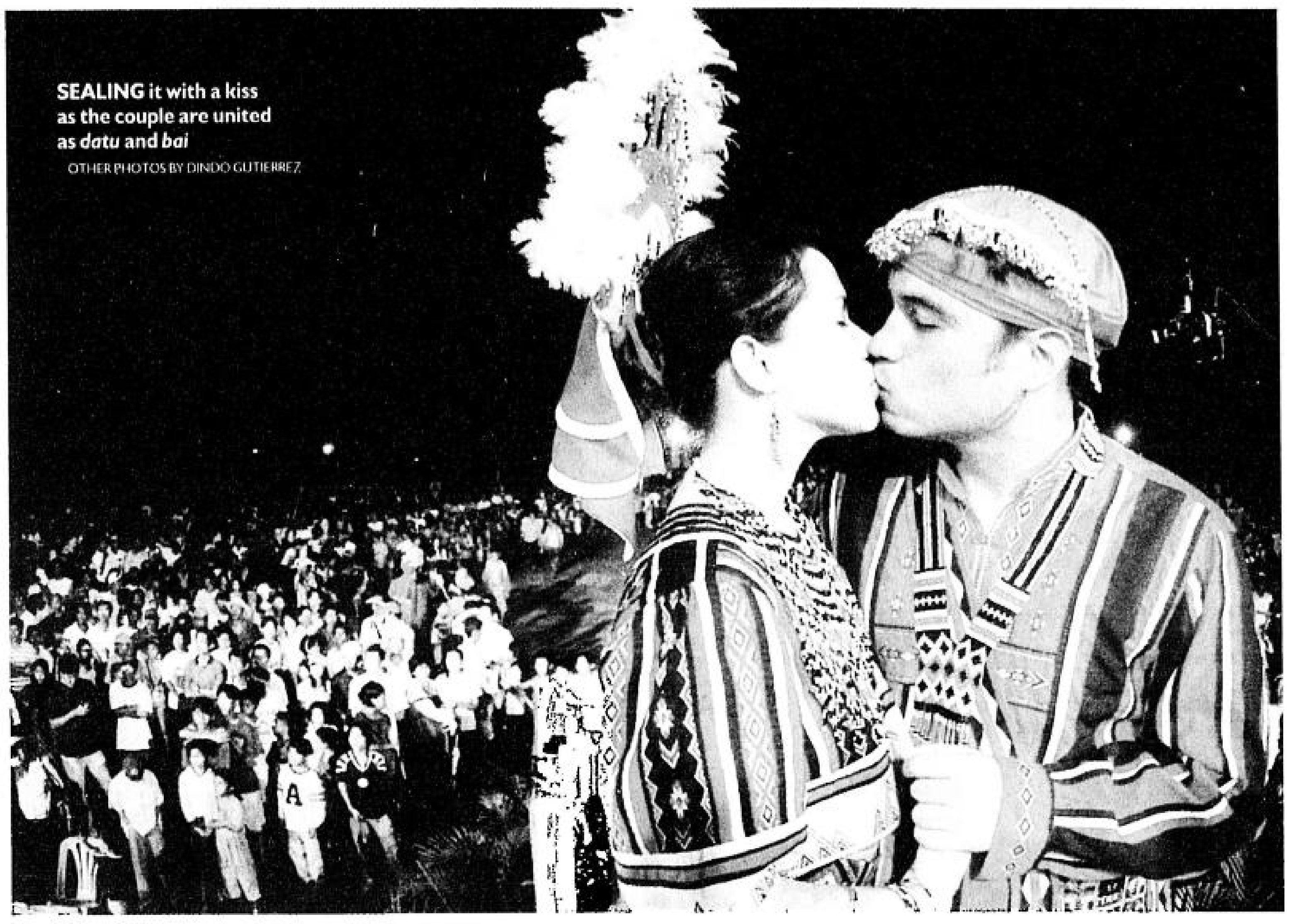
BAI Nene Sibug, *tres charmante* Southern lady Arlene de Castro, Vicky Zubiri and NCIP chair Janette Serrano

WOMEN MAYORS. Mayor Nenita Suyao of Kaulangan, Mayor Maryann Baula of Sumilao, Gov. Joe Zubiri, Mayor Socorro Acosta of Manolo Fortichi, Mayor Laurencia Edma of San Fernando; and Mayor Obedencio of Maramag



GANG OF MAYORS. Mayor Okinlay of Impasugong, Mayor Obedencio of Maramag, Mayor Lago of Baungon, Mayor Ligan of Kibawe, Mayor Gudito of Damulog, Gov. Joe Zubiri, Mayor Rubio of Lantapan, Mayor Jose Galario Jr. of Valencia City and Mayor Caballero of Kadingilan

WITH THE BRIDE'S *FAMILLE*. Bukidnon tribal *datus* stand behind Dette Tan, Fe Lopez, Nelia Cortez and Lino Cortez.



SEALING it with a kiss as the couple are united as *datu* and *bai*

OTHER PHOTOS BY DINDO GUTIERREZ

Colorful tribal wedding seals romance

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

THE POMP AND PAGEANTRY OF the tribal wedding were reflected by the rainbow colors that graced the tribes' brilliant costumes. The wedding was supposed to unify the seven tribes that comprised the Bukidnon Consultative Body, and each tribe was represented by hundreds of awesome dancers, twirling in full skirts and towering headdresses.

But whatever the dazzling display of revelry and celebration, it could not overshadow the glow of true love on the faces of Bukidnon Rep. **Juan Miguel Zubiri** and gorgeous **Audrey Kay Tan** , who were married at the municipal hall of Maramag, Bukidnon.

It was a fairytale come true as the leading man of Congress' Spice Boys held the hand of his fair lady Audrey. Ceremonial chicken blood was poured over their lovers' knot, officiated by several royal *datu* and *bai*. The blessing of the knot sealed their nuptial vows.

There were 25,000 guests led by the charming southern lady, **Arlene de Castro** , wife of Vice President **Noli de Castro,** and they were gushing over the spectacular but heartfelt ceremonies.

A day before, the couple performed the requisite adoption rituals, which lasted for three hours, at the sprawling farm-home of the groom's-father, **Gov. Joe Zubiri**, in Valle, Bukidnon.

Each *datu* and tribe leader had something to say to the groom regarding being accepted into the tribe and his duties as an adopted son. Then the *bai* women, the spouses of the *datus*, explained to Audrey her duties as *bai*. They told her that the women of the tribe run the whole show in the household; they also tend to the children.

At the end of the adoption, a leader of the *datu* handed the representative the shield and spear, symbolizing his role as defender of his home and tribe. Meanwhile, Audrey T. received a floor mat, symbolizing the woman's duty to bear the children of her husband.

Back to the tribal wedding, *palanggas*. After the ceremonies, 700 dancers from the seven different tribes presented their own fantastic dances in breathtaking tribal costumes, paying tribute to the newlyweds.

The tribes were the Bukidnon, Higa-onon, Tigwa-hanen, Talaandig, Matigsalog, Umayamnen and Manobo tribes. The thousands of guests cheered loudly.

The four-hour ritual ended with awesome fireworks.

Tomorrow, *palanggas*, Dec. 17, our beautiful love-birds will have their Catholic wedding rites at the beautifully renovated Taal Vista Hotel.

Audrey T. will be wearing a gorgeous wedding gown by the renowned Spanish couturier, **Hannibal Laguna**, while the rest of the entourage will have **Rajo Laurel** designing their ensemble, dahlings.

The wedding, which will be witnessed by 1,000 guests, will be the culmination of what started as a simple date.

May their tribe increase!

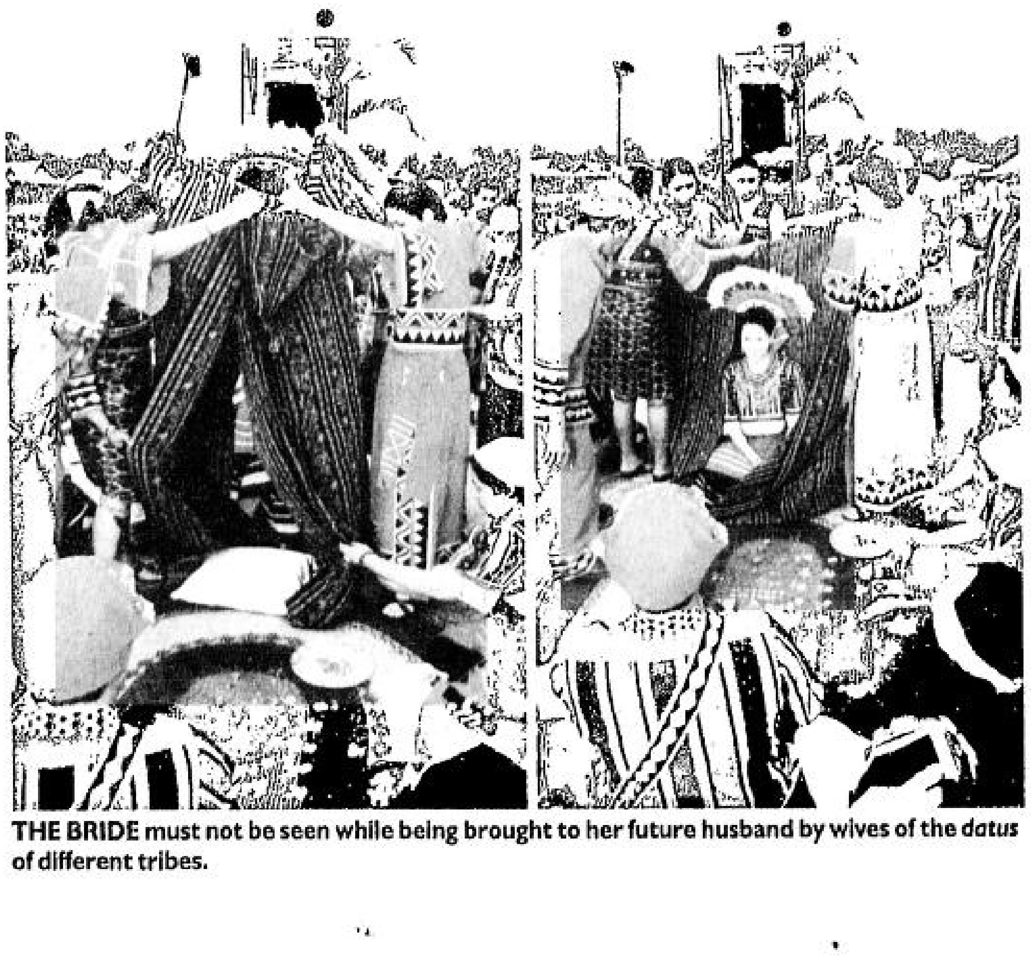
Cheers, *palanggas*!

MOI with Davao Rep. Tony Boy Floirendo and Davao guests, professor Lollete Rebusa and Edeley Tarrazona

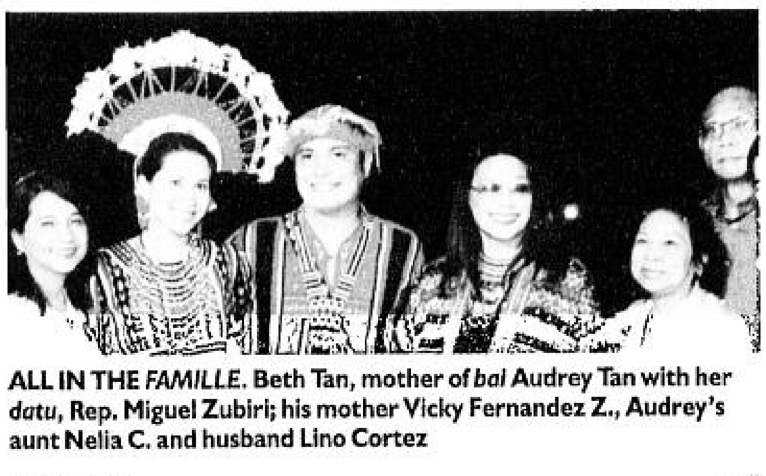
ONE OF the elderly *datus* has to place the headgear of the groom.

DRIPPING chicken blood on the hands of the couple symbolizes bonding of the marriage.

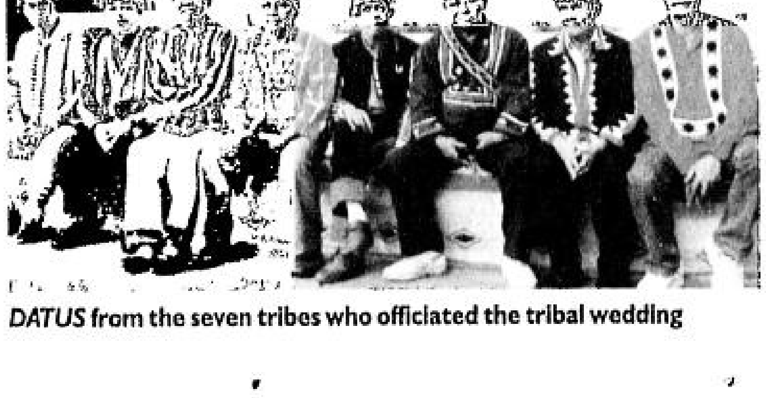
MAYOR Ayuban of Dangcaoan, Mayor Gue of Quezon and Mayor Noble of Talakag



THE BRIDE must not be seen while being brought to her future husband by wives of the *datus* of different tribes.



ALL IN THE *FAMILLE*. Beth Tan, mother of *bai* Audrey Tan with her *datu*, Rep. Miguel Zubiri; his mother Vicky Fernandez Z., Audrey's aunt Nelia C. and husband Lino Cortez



DATUS from the seven tribes who officiated the tribal wedding

Holiday casuals

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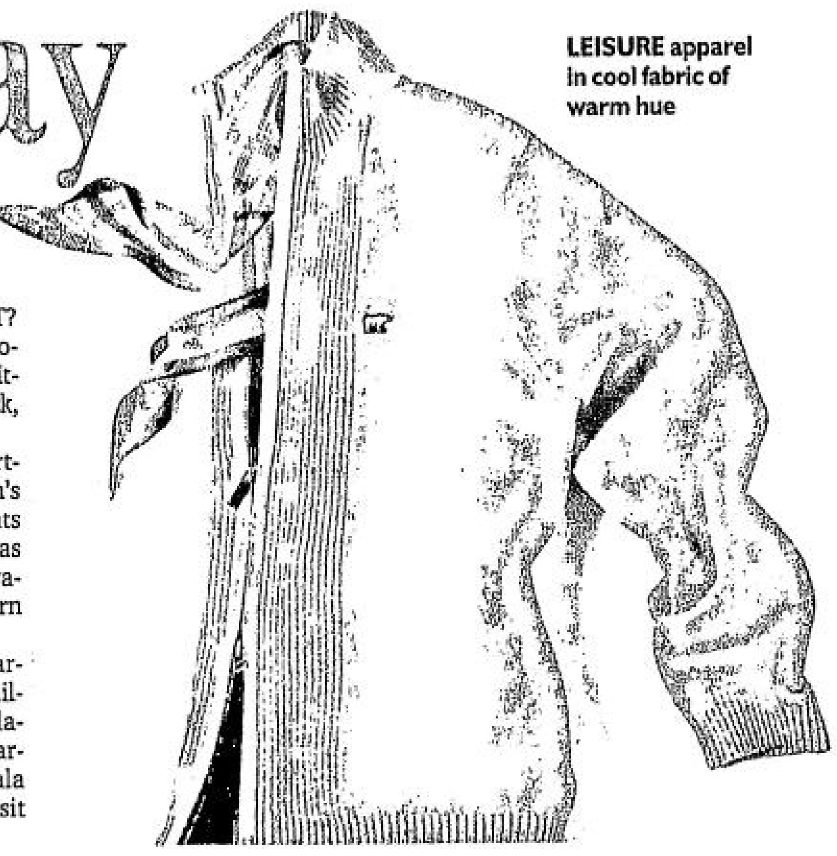
LEISURE apparel in cool fabric of warm hue

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS AT A RESORT? Go for easy-to-wear apparel in the most up-to-date silhouettes and the coolest fabrics in exciting shades, as well as comfy neutrals like black, khaki and ivory.

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Jack Nicklaus apparel is exclusively marketed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and is available at Rustan's Makati, Shagri-La Plaza, Alabang Town Center, Gateway Mall Cubao, Harrison Plaza, Robinsons Place Ermita, Ayala Center Cebu and Shoemart Makati. Visit www.iacknicklausapparel.com

2 award-winning choirs in 1 show

"COME TO THE STABLE 5," A CHRISTMAS concert featuring two award-winning children's choirs will be presented 6 p.m., Dec. 18, at The Church of the Holy Trinity, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati. The concert will benefit the Pasiglahin Ang Batang Pinoy feeding program. Performing are the Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong, bronze medalist at the 2nd World Choir Olympics in the Musica Contemporanea Category and silver medallist in the Children's Choir Category; and the 2005 Choral Olympics champions, the Mary the Queen Children's Choir from San Juan.

GOINGS ON

LECTURE. Dr. Amador Muriel, Filipino physicist, will lecture on "Molecular Theory of Turbulence" at 1 p.m., today, at University of the Philippines Manila, College of Science. The lecture will focus on the application of the Kuhn paradigm for the acceptance of a radical theory. E-mail amador.muriel@cern.ch

CONCERT. The University of Asia and the Pacific Chorale will be featured in "Venite Adoremus" at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 17, at University of the Philippines Theater, Diliman. The choir won three gold medals and a special prize for Best Folkloric Music at the recent 23rd International Choral Festival in Preveza, Greece. Part of the university's 10th anniversary celebration, "BIG@10," the concert also features renowned concert violinist Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata and the Pundaquit Virtuosi, a youth string ensemble based in Zambales. Tickets at P200 and P150 are available at UA&P-SEB office and UP Theater ticket booth. Call 6370912 local 290.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY. Santa Claus is coming to the Star Group of Malls and the Starland Themepark and Resort: at 1 p.m., until Dec. 22, at 3/L, Home Area of Metropolis Star Alabang; 1 p.m., Dec. 17-24, 2/L, activity area of Starmall Edsa; 1 p.m., Dec. 23, 2/L, activity hub of Starmall Las Piñas. Santa will make a special appearance on Christmas Day at the Starland Themepark and Resort. He will be giving away chocolates, candies and gifts. Call 8504752, 7181886 or 8725249.

SALE. Converse Megasale, with discounts of up to 80 percent, is ongoing until Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., SM Megatrade Hall Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

DUCKS Unlimited offers discounts of up to 50 percent until Dec. 30 at its shops at Shoppesville Greenhills, Century Park Sheraton, Glorietta 3, Ali Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Pioneer, SM Southmall, SM San Lazaro, SM City Marilao, SM City Pampanga and Festival Supermall.

STA. LUCIA East Grand Mall holds holiday sales all weekends this month. A wide selection of merchandise from anchor stores Sta. Lucia East Department Store, Supermarkets, Home Gallery, Planet Toys and over 300 boutiques offer discounts of up to 50 percent. There will also be an acoustic singing competition, "Christmas on Strings," at 3 p.m., Dec. 17, at the entertainment center. Secure entry forms from the mall's Ad & Promo Department. Winners get cash prizes. Call 6815401 local 109.

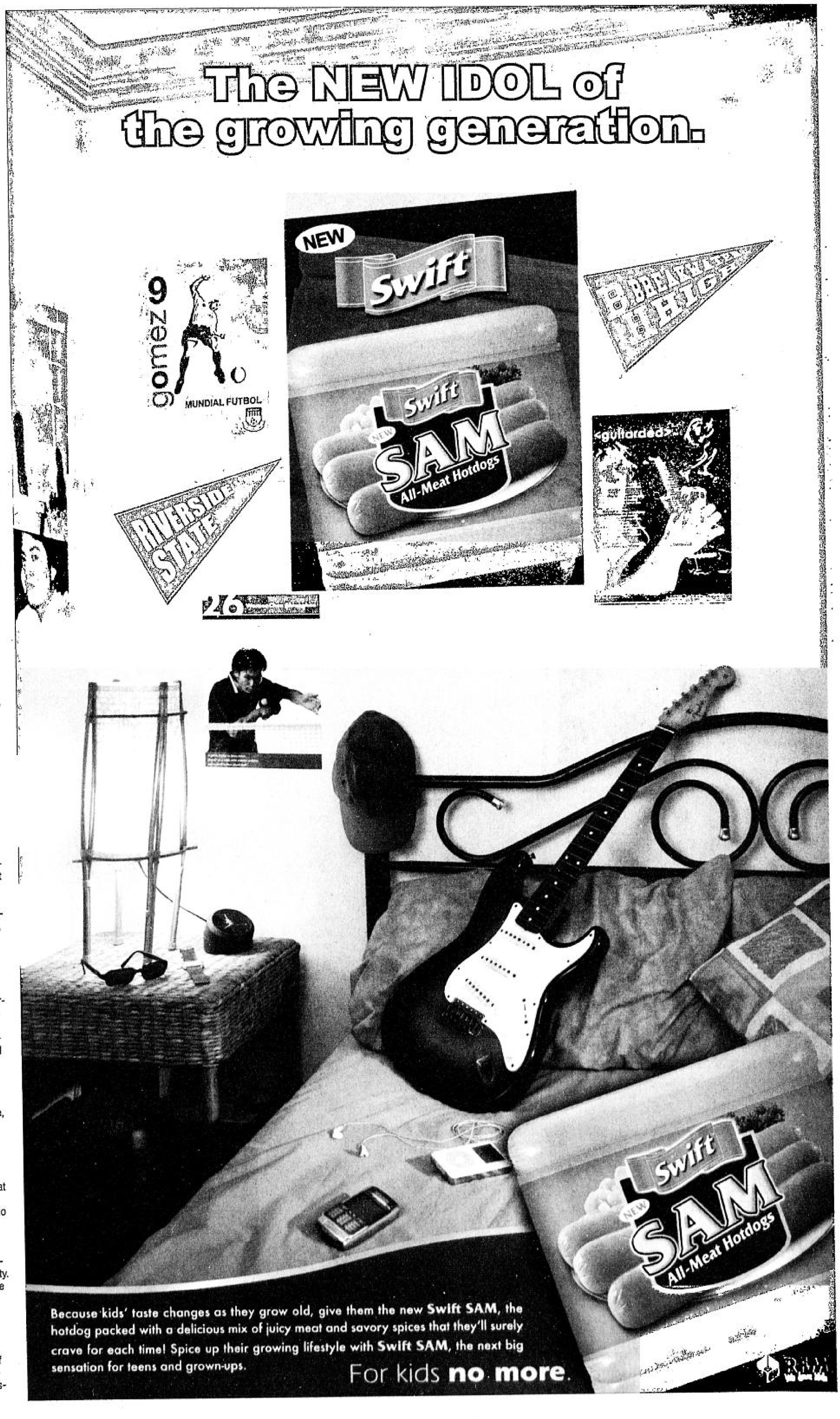
PERFORMANCE. The students of the Claravall School of Classical Ballet under director Malen Claravall are the featured performers at the Ballet at the Park Christmas offerings. The performance is set tomorrow, at 6 p.m., at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Rizal Park, Manila. Admission is free. Call 3027374.

COMPETITION. La Mancha Pyro Productions stages the 1st World Pyro Olympics (WPO), an international fireworks competition, at the Esplanade, Bay City Central Business Park in Pasay City, Dec. 26-30. Call WPO Information Center at 817307 or visit www.WorldPyroOlympics.com

WORKSHOP. The Stress Management Interactive Workshop will be held 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 28, at the Baguio Country Club. Call 4160123/1023, 7215309, 0917-8161528 and 7231049. For Baguio bookings, call (074)4464889.

CONFAB. The conference on "Leadership Styles across Cultures" will be on Jan 16-18 and Jan. 19-21, 2006, at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City. Call the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Baguio at (074)4428878 or e-mail llsc06@yahoo.com.ph

RAFFLE PROMO. The Robinsons Malls ongoing raffle promo, "Sights and Sounds of Christmas," runs until Jan. 15. To be given away are 18 sets of JVC Home Theater Systems, including 20" television sets, digital video disc players and sound system or 100 units of JVC MP3 players.



Because kids' taste changes as they grow old, give them the new **Swift SAM**, the hotdog packed with a delicious mix of juicy meat and savory spices that they'll surely crave for each time! Spice up their growing lifestyle with **Swift SAM**, the next big sensation for teens and grown-ups.

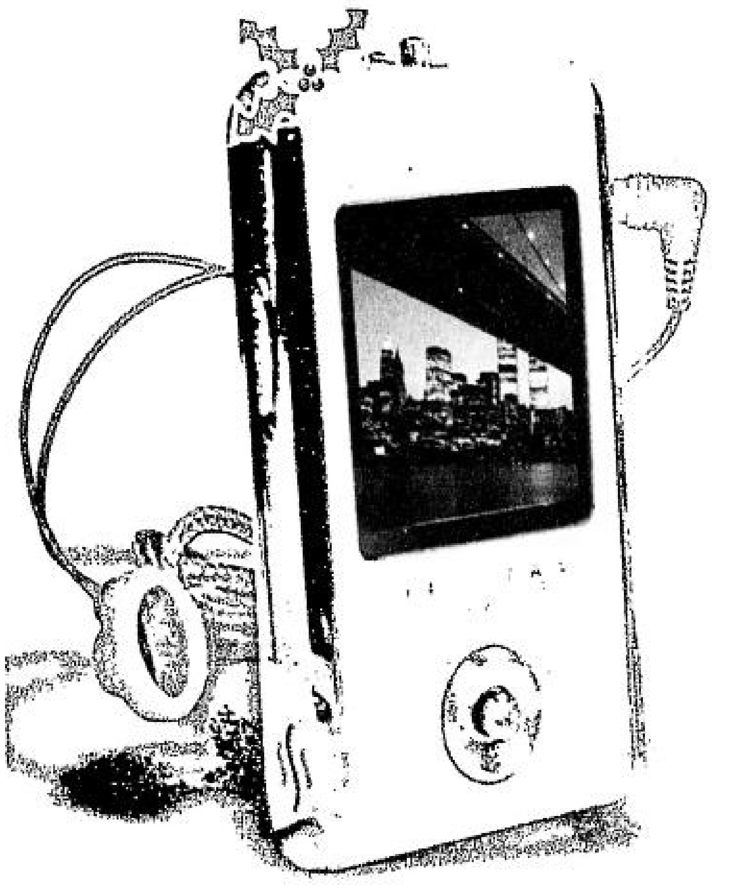
SUPERMARKET • SUPERMARKET • SM

Cool Christmas Gadgets

Raffle Promo

Win any of 1,000 UNITS OF

DIGITAL MP4 PLAYER



*Music & Video playback
*1.5inch 65k color display screen
*Loudspeaker mode
*Built-in FM Radio
*256MB Internal memory
*Games/Voice recorder

Mechanics:

- Minimum P500 single receipt purchase of YELLOW TAG item=1 Raffle coupon.
- Plus 1 raffle coupon with participating products.
- Plus 1 raffle coupon using your SM ADVANTAGE CARD or SM BDO REWARDS CARD.

NESCAFÉ Nestlé Wyeth Vaseline Thick & Clean

Promo Durations: December 9, 2005 - January 2, 2006
*See mechanics posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4100 Series of 2005

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TIME PLUS 75, GREENHILLS T: (632) 721.7868
WASHINGTON, POWERPLANT T: (632) 898.2288

National...

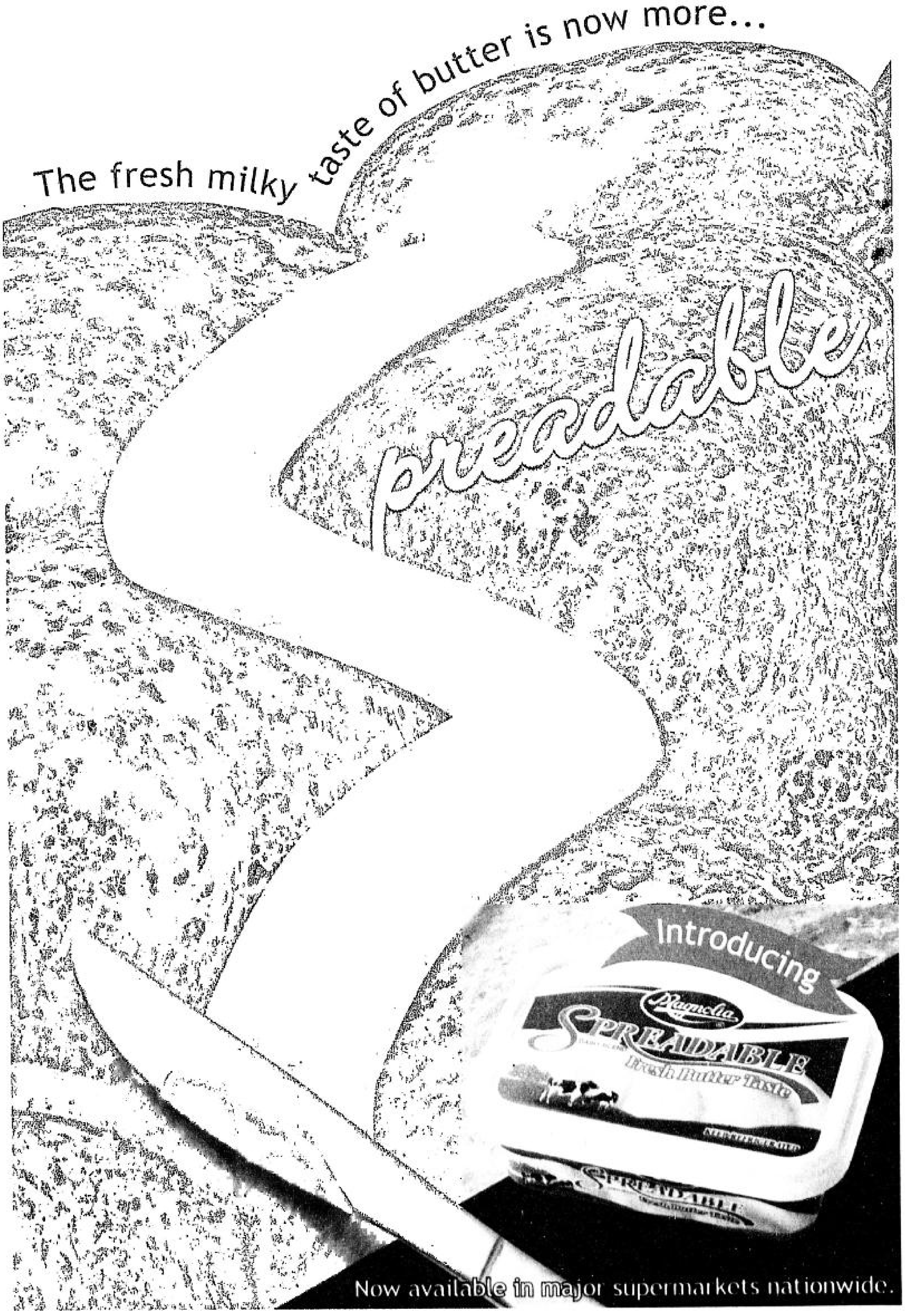
From page D1

Annie Sarthou; Dr. **Joven Cuanang**; and **Gretchen Ocampo Recto**, whose dad, **Adrian Ocampo**, was posthumously honored that evening for having supported the charities.

Inno yielded true masterpieces (*See related story on page C1*). It was worth the wait. Understandably, Inno was dazed at curtain call. You would be, too, if you saw your painstakingly put-together collection interrupted by a fire. But then these few sparks could have been a greeting from Inno's beloved, **Richard Tann**, who died this year before he could realize his concept for the "Beloved."

Cesar does GMA

If you saw President **Macapagal-Arroyo** with elegant tailored ensembles at the Asean Summit, thank **Cesar Gaupo** for it. The coat dress she wore as she entered the summit hall with the other Asean leaders was sleek, clean, elegant—its cut and proportion perfect for GMA. Unknown to many, Cesar quietly started work on the presidential wardrobe more than a month ago. One wise presidential choice, at last.


The fresh milky taste of butter is now more...
Spreadable
Introducing
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LIFESTYLE

Contributing editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

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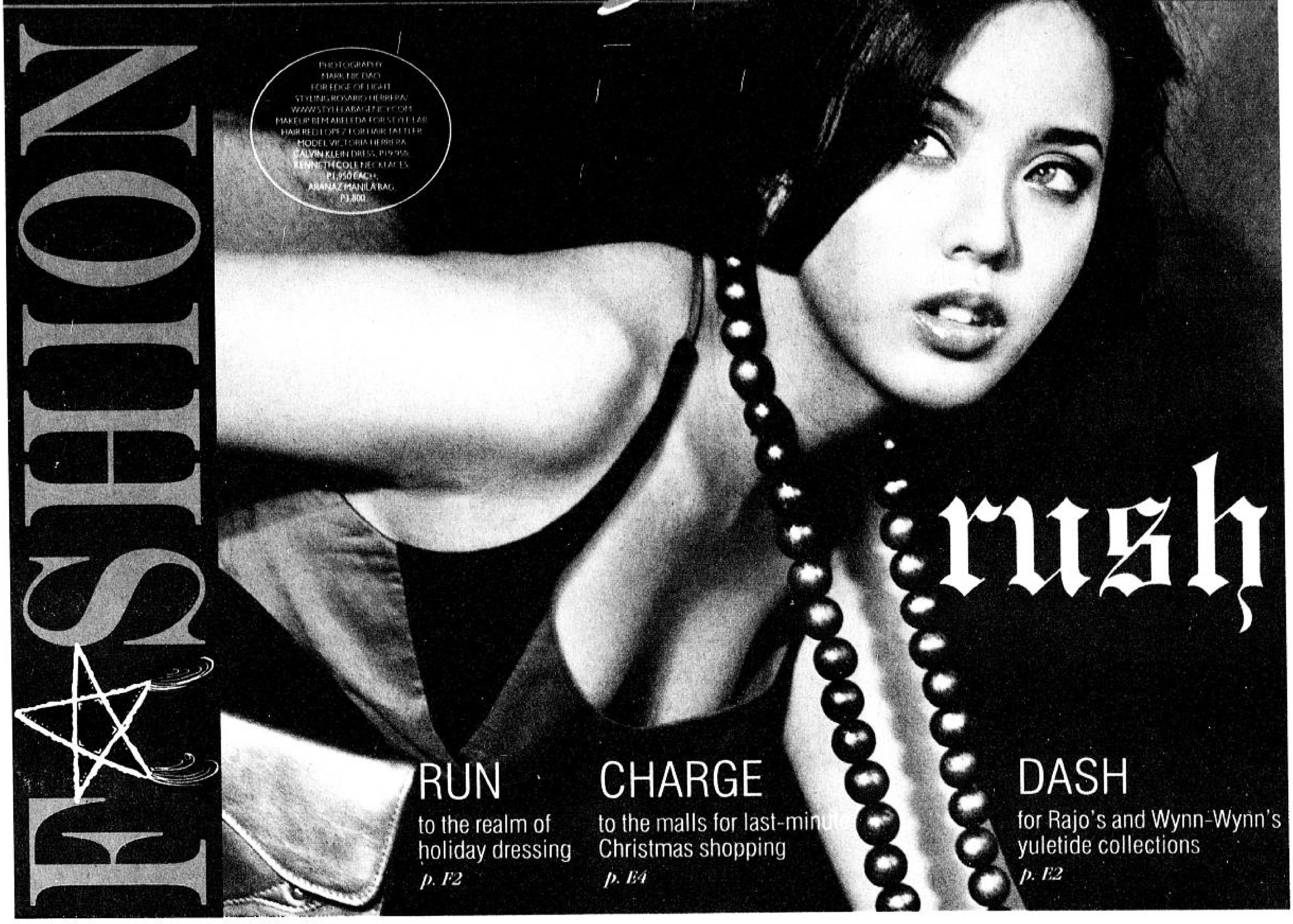
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



FASHION rush

PHOTOGRAPHY
MARK NICDAO
FOR EDGE OF LIGHT
STYLING ROSARIO HERRERA/
WWW.STYLELABAGENCY.COM
MAKEUP BEM ABELEDA FOR STYLE LAB
HAIR RED LOPEZ FOR HAIR TATTLER
MODEL VICTORIA HERRERA
CALVIN KLEIN DRESS, P19,950;
KENNETH COLE NECKLACES,
P1,950 EACH;
ARANAZ MANILA BAG,
P3,800

RUN

to the realm of holiday dressing

p. F2

CHARGE

to the malls for last-minute Christmas shopping

p. E4

DASH

for Rajo's and Wynn-Wynn's yuletide collections

p. E2

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BPI Express Credit's Make It Happen promotion is from November 15, 2005 to May 15, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6503, Series of 2005

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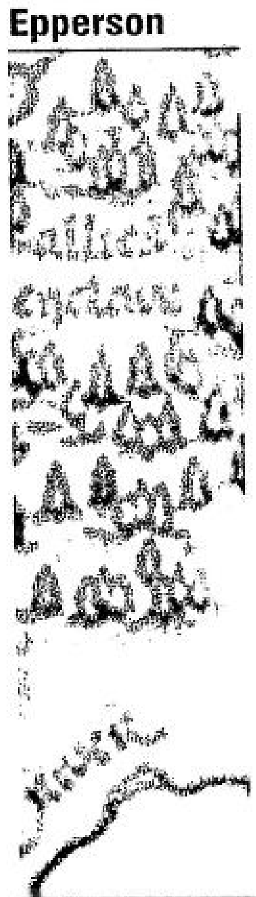
Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson



Discover gilded passions for opulent luxury with glorious creations that give you a head rush

GOLD: A SYMBOL OF wealth and power. It evokes individual and collective obsession. It has led to the destruction of territories and people and fueled the emergence and fall of powers. Its rarity and beauty have guided and influenced history. Complex and beautiful, the buttery nuggets have been man's constant companions through the centuries.

In fashion, the use of gold goes beyond metal works and dramatic ornaments. During ancient times, gold was used as material for weaving either alone or with other fibers.

Tapestries in India were made from gold as fine as silk. Magnificent gold tissues were used to canopy or cover thrones.

In modern times, metallic cloth, known as lamé, is made of core yarn wound with a thin metal thread. Lamé is a favorite of the strobe-light-hogging peeps of the '70s, and perhaps its most impressive use was in Issey Miyake's Starburst collection, which was made from thin membranes of metallic paper that were heat-pressed to assorted natural and synthetic materials—the designer's fashion version of recycling.

Designer gild

For this holiday extravaganza, two designers paid homage to the mint marvel.

Rajo Laurel's newest collection parades golden Hollywood glamour: long coats made from crushed lamé, wraparound blouses in shark's fin lamé and cocktail frocks made from silk threads in wheat, conjuring 1920s flapper femmes.

No wonder, Rajo is a favorite among the celebrity set. His dramatic silhouettes and bejeweled trimmings make the silver—er, I mean golden—screen heavyweights shine, like a megastar.

Another designer is accessories godmother Wynn-Wynn Ong, whose magic design wand for this season turned creepy crawlers such as spiders and other insects into vermeil wonders (sterling-silver core with solid coating of 24k gold) fit for any Cinderella ready for her midnight ball.

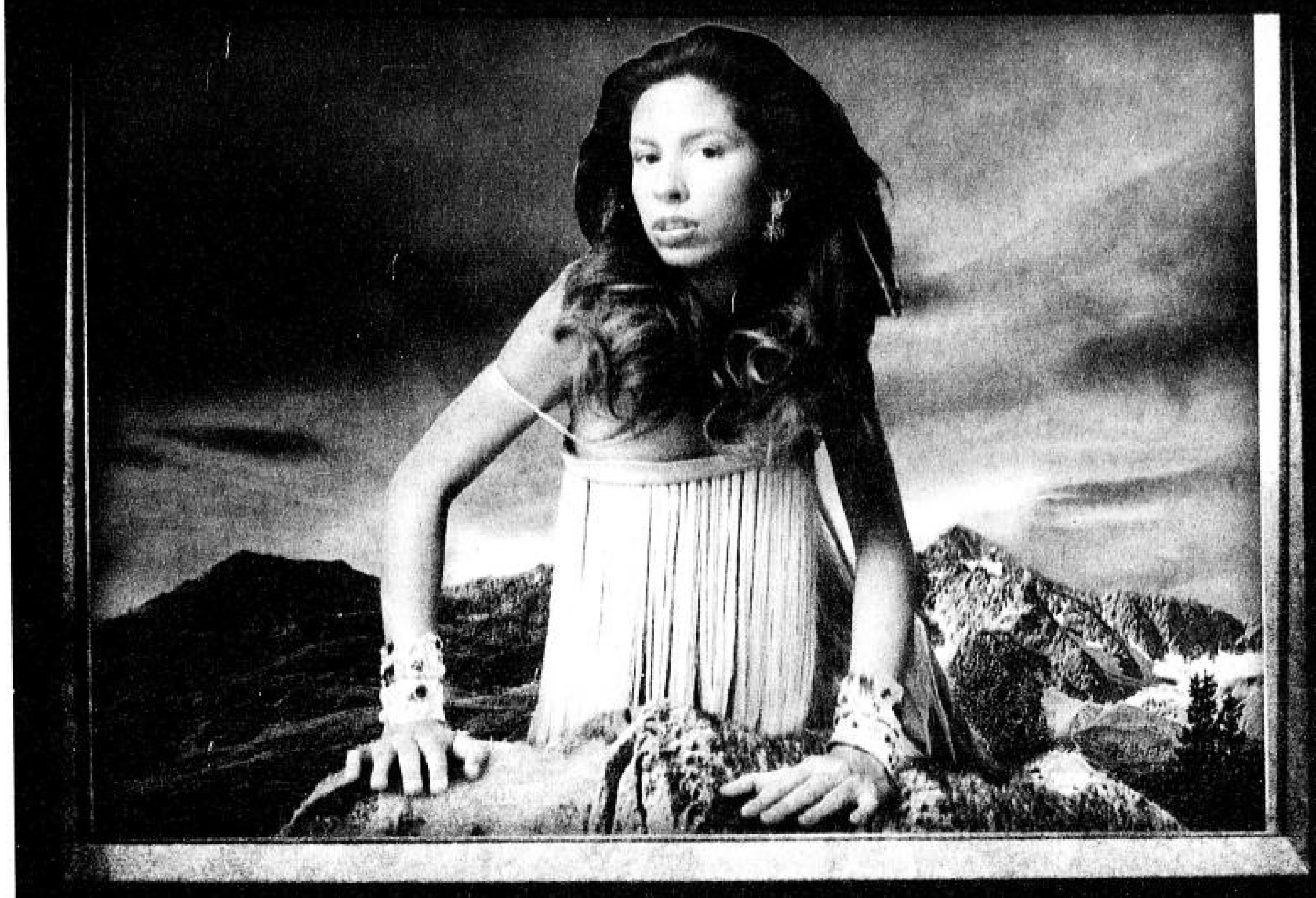
Ong's quirky take on design and finish—or should I say, not-so-finished texture—brings a fresh take on modern-day glamour.

Whether you're clad in a perfect long gown or a classic LBD, a dash of Wynn-Wynn's bijou will never make you look stiff and pretentious.

So before attending to your office Christmas party and exchanging gifts with your *monitos y monitas*, check your magic mirrors and get dolled up in a Rajo—it's the only way to becoming a sure style Wynn-ner!

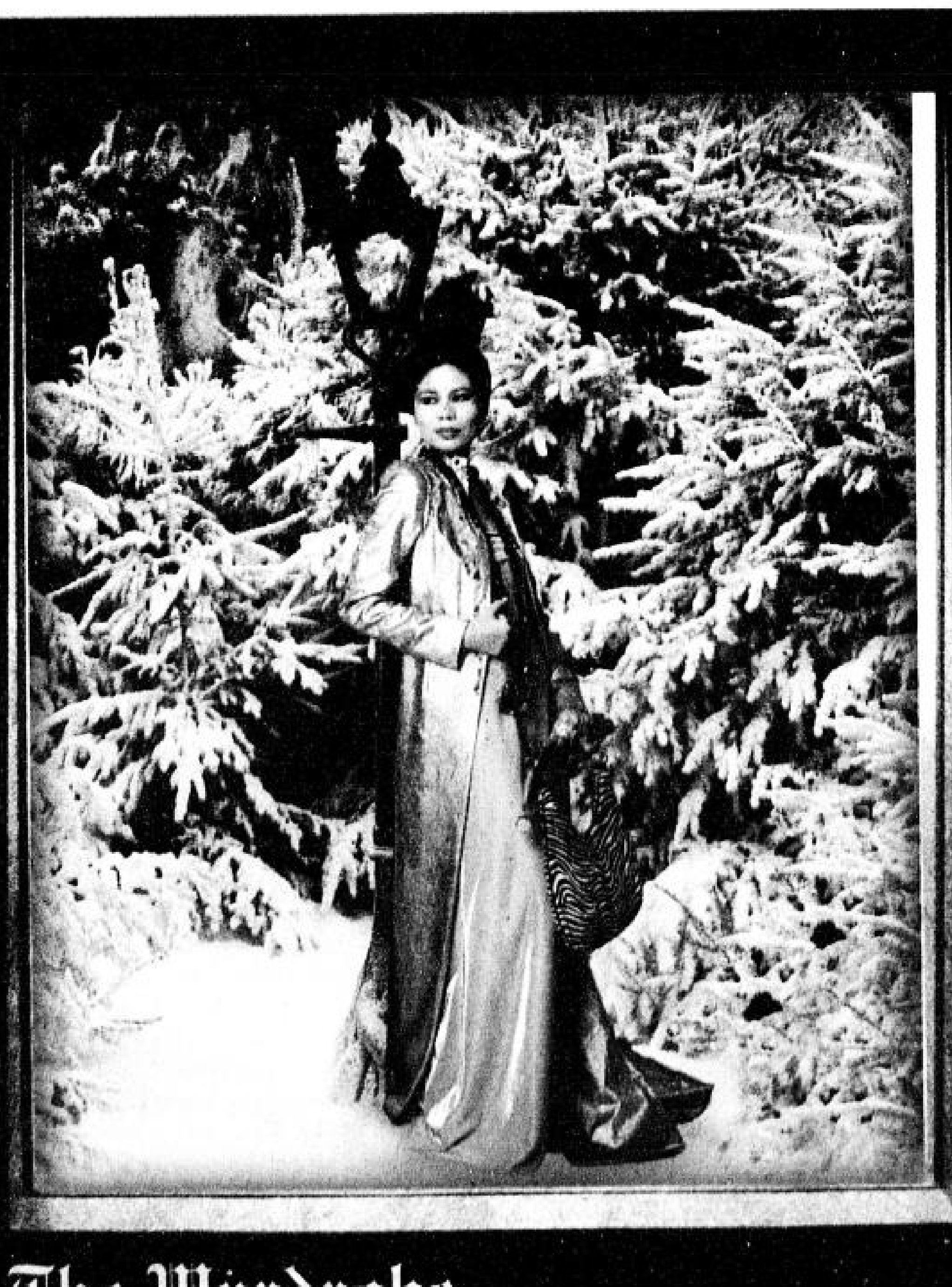
E-mail author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY
TOM EPPERSON (0917-8446454)
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
DIGITAL IMAGING ARNZ LORENZO (0919-2085558)
HAIR AND MAKEUP HENRI CALAYAG FOR H SALON (8176150)
2/F, RUSTAN'S, MAKATI
MODELS NICOLE HERNANDEZ, GWENNAELLE RUAIS
AND RAYA MANANQUIL OF PMAP
CLOTHES HOUSE OF LAUREL, 6013 VILLENA ST.
AND MANALAC ST. BARANGAY POBLACION, MAKATI (8901686)
ACCESSORIES NAGÁ JEWELRY BY WYNN-WYNN ONG,
FIRMA GREENBELT 3
AND FELICITY SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL
BACKGROUND PHOTOS FROM THE MOVIE,
"THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA"



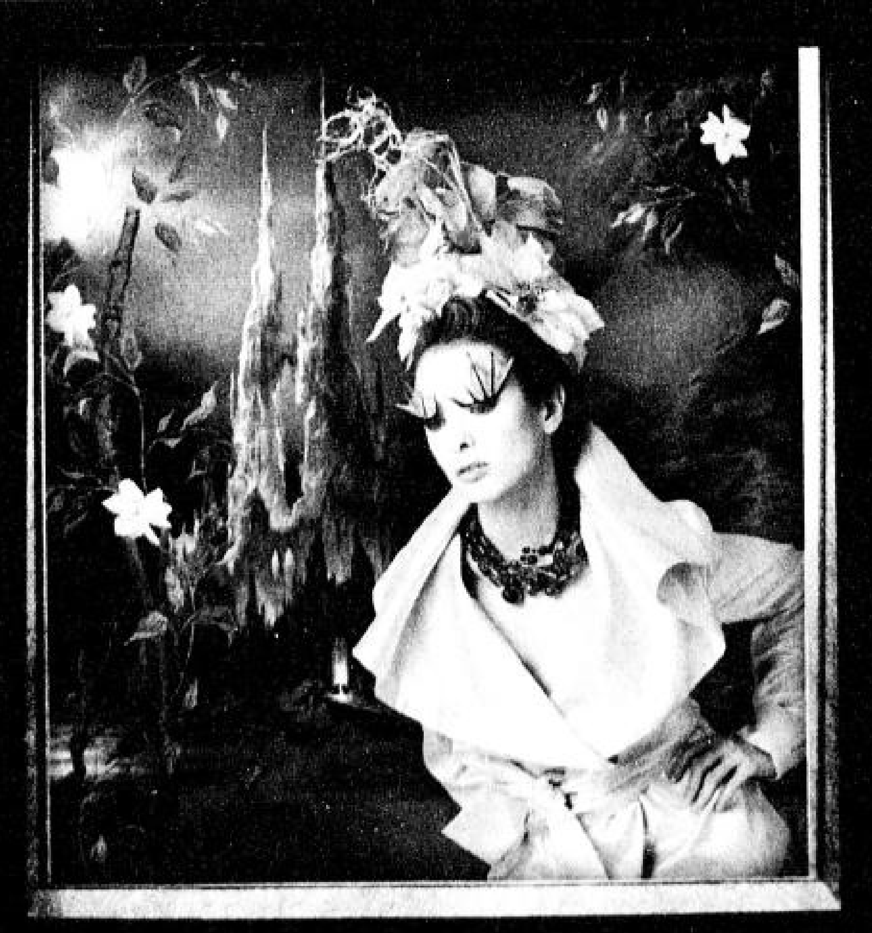
The Lion

Reign in a festive frock with a cunning silhouette. Let your crowning glory be the mane attraction with big, wavy hair that rules this season



The Wardrobe

Step into the world of unexpected/unheralded fashion. Mix rich textures with delicate ones, intricate embellishments with garish details



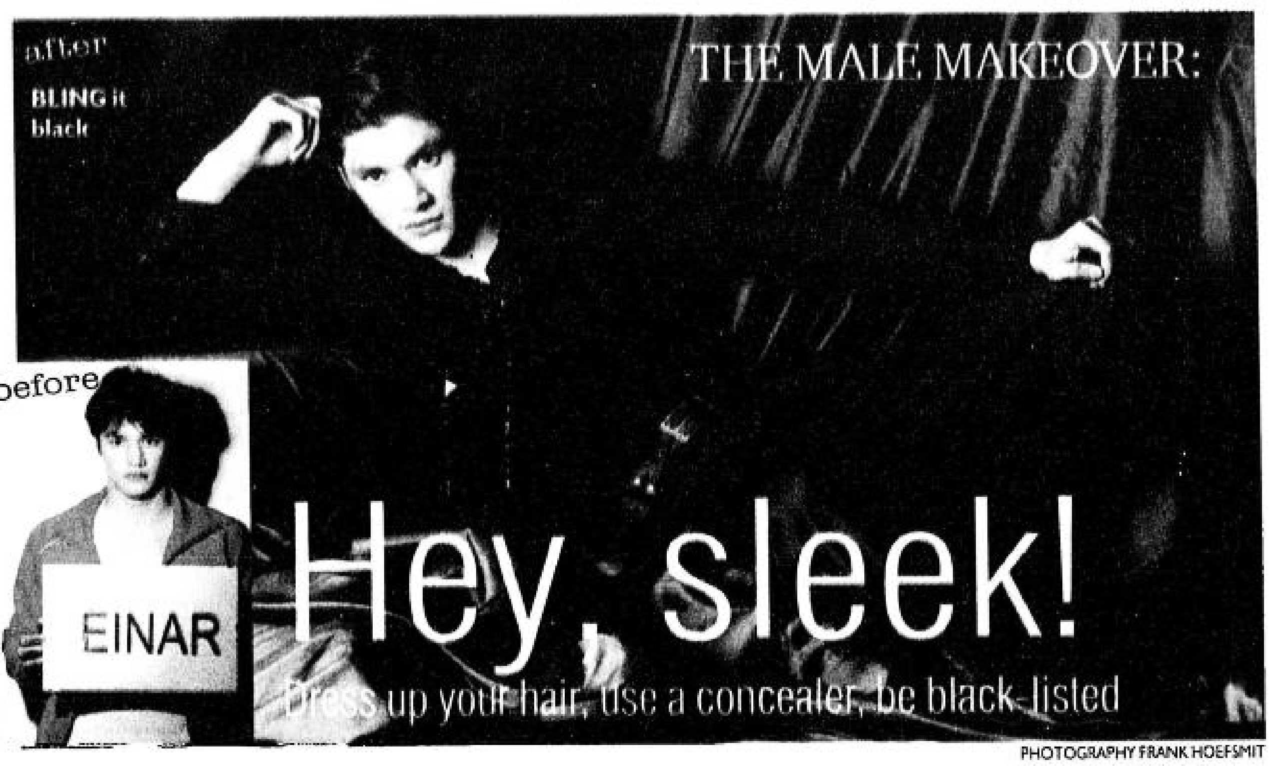
The Witch

Enchant the adoring crowd in an elaborate top of luxurious fabric. Lace a skillfully crafted neckpiece and hold them spellbound endlessly

aslan's camp
the stone table

THE MALE MAKEOVER:

TRENCH out



Hey, sleek!

Dress up your hair, use a concealer, be black-listed

PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK HOEFSMIT

By Juan Sarte III & Robbie Carmona

TARGET:
Einar Ingebrigsten
22 years old
MISSION:
Boy-next-door to glamour boy

JUAN SAYS:

Holiday cheers! It's party season once again. It's time to glam up since you'll be dressing up in luxe wear for those nightly Christmas parties and events.

Wait a minute. Do men have to glam up? My answer is yes. And because your girl will take that extra effort of having her hair and makeup done just for you, you'll need to glam up as well.

Luckily, it'll be much easier because you can do the glamming up on yourself. With the help of hair products, all you have to do is change the way you comb your hair, add some texture and a bit of shine and you'll look fabulously dressed up than usual.

You might also need a little makeup to hide those imperfections. Make up for men? Yes, men can wear corrective makeup. Being a makeup artist, I am the most *praning* about makeup looking obvious on men.

But everything is just about the right application of the right product. I know of a lot of men who actually wear corrective makeup without us noticing it. The makeup doesn't make them look less manly. It just makes them look better.

I'd say that if actors and models can use corrective makeup to look good in their appearances, so can we.

This season, impress your girl and everyone at the parties. Look fabulous by dressing up your hair and correcting your imperfections. Glam it up boys!

Grooming makeover

Accomplice no. 1: Bed Head by TIGI, available at leading salons

Cleanse and condition hair.

Before applying styling products, make sure your hair is clean and in good condition.

Trust me. There's nothing glamorous about unclean, *amoy-pawis* hair.

So rock your chick's world by using Bed Head Manipulator Shampoo and Conditioner. These products will leave your hair smelling deliciously sexy.

Dress up your hair. No other men's hairstyle looks more dressed up than the sleek, wet look. To get that Leonardo DiCaprio-look, apply the Bed Head Stick directly on your hair then sleek it back using a comb.

For extra gloss, do the same procedure with Head Shrink Mega Firm Gel. The cool packaging says, "fire your shrink and take control of your head."

If you can't bling on with accessories, bling it on the hair!

Accomplice no. 2: Tout Beau and Tout Propre by Jean Paul Gaultier, available at My Beauty Hub, 6750 Ayala Avenue

Prep your skin. Calm your razor burn with Tout Propre Soothing Alcohol-Free After Shave Emulsion. Then, invigorate your skin and erase signs of fatigue with Tout Beau Smooth Face Moisturizing Face Balm. Both these products will leave you with the scent of Jean Paul Gaultier's Le Male. Ooh la la! Yummy!

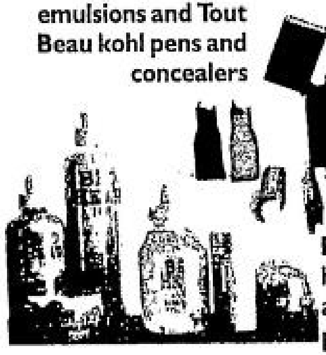
Use the concealer. Cover your blemishes, dark circles, sun spots and razor cuts using the Tout Beau Sharp Eyes Kohl Pen and Concealer. It's ok, *pare*.

If you're worried that your "brods" might find out that you have a concealer in your grooming kit, this concealer is concealed in a very masculine pen-like packaging.

Make sure to blend well until the product disappears on your skin. For the more adventurous, the other end of the pen has a kohl eyeliner to define those sexy eyes.

Moisten your lips. Nourish those dry lips with Tout Beau Sneaky Kiss. These lip balms come in transparent (colorless), fair tint (for lighter skin tones) and tawny tint (for deeper skin tones).

For make-out-ready lips, try the Shiny Lip Roll. Those girls will be screaming—"Hit me!"


TOUT Propre shave emulsions and Tout Beau kohl pens and concealers

BED Head hair care and styling products

ROBBIE SAYS:

Christmas party invitations are starting to pour in again. This is the best season to glam up and create that luxe look as seen in different men's fashion magazines now a days. This is the time to create that modern sleek look for that all-night drinking and partying.

It is official, black is back. Accents of black, black as a basic, black on black, your ever dependable black. Black will give you that sleek look that conforms to your body. An all-black ensemble can make you look more fluid and edgier.

And for those who tend to pile on the pounds during the holiday season, fret not! An all-black outfit is a surefire way to give you that slimmer silhouette.

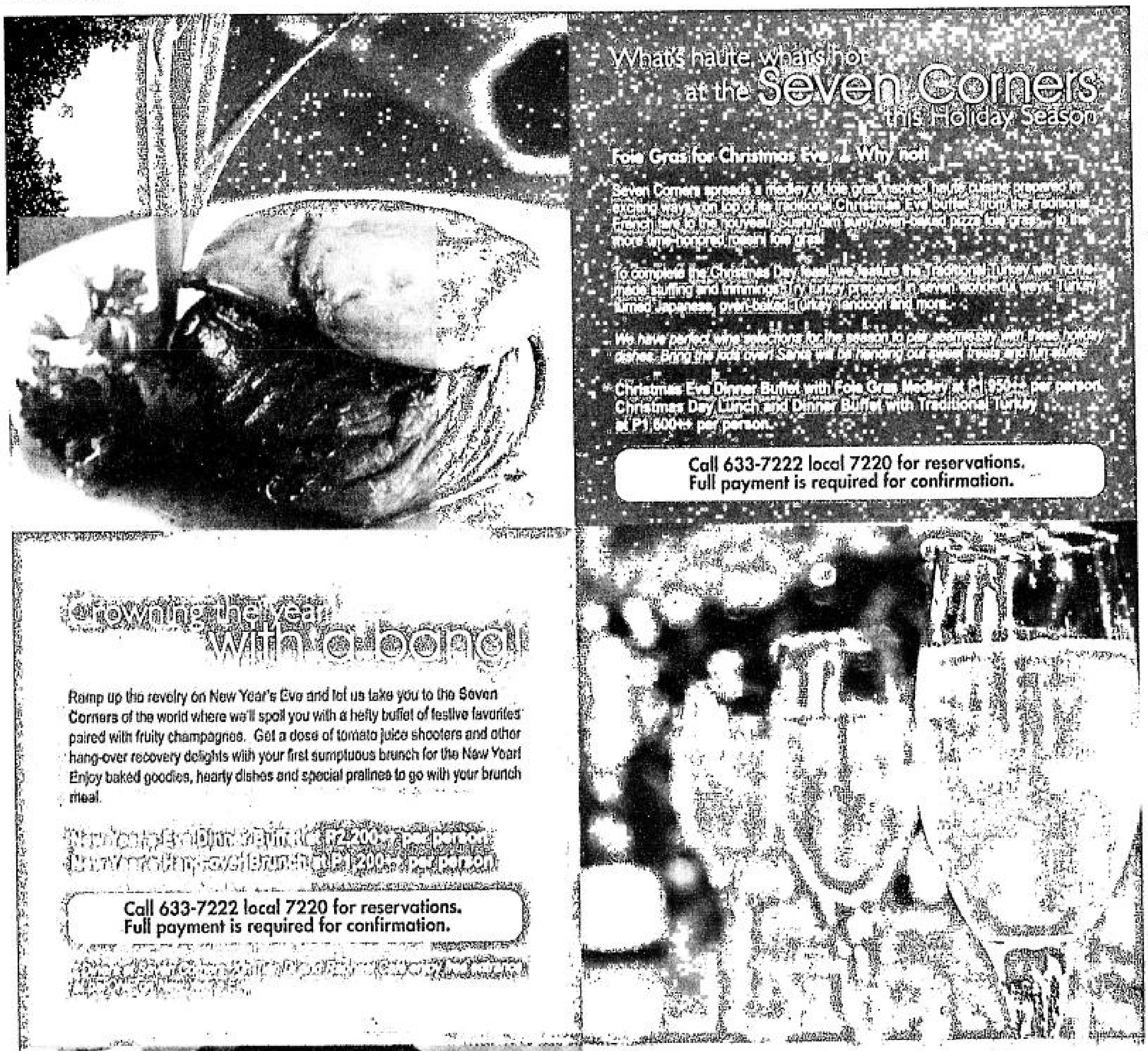
Be black-listed!

For this shopping journey, I made a trip down the aisle of one of my favorite local brands, Tyler.

Here, I show you a variety of ways on how to pull off that luxe-glam look, masculine-style.

Look guide 1: Bling it black! Your all-black outfit can be accessorized with a bunch of black necklaces for a tone-to-tone look. For your next party, try wearing a fedora hat to create that Timberlake red-carpet look.

Look guide 2: Trench out! Put on a trench coat for those chilly evenings. In the mood to get all decked out this party season? Try wearing black-rimmed specs and be the real apple in the eyes of the female specie.


What's haute, what's hot at the Seven Corners this Holiday Season

Foie Gras for Christmas Eve ... Why not!

Seven Corners spreads a medley of foie gras-inspired haute cuisine prepared in exciting ways on top of its traditional Christmas Eve buffet -- from the traditional French fare to the nouveau! Sushi, dim sum, oven-baked pizza foie gras -- to the more time-honored rossini foie gras!

To complete the Christmas Day feast, we feature the Traditional Turkey with home-made stuffing and trimmings. Try turkey prepared in seven wonderful ways: Turkey turned Japanese, oven-baked Turkey Tandoori and more.

We have perfect wine selections for the season to pair seamlessly with these holiday dishes. Bring the kids over! Santa will be handing out sweet treats and fun stuff!

Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet with Foie Gras Medley at P1,950++ per person.
Christmas Day Lunch and Dinner Buffet with Traditional Turkey at P1,600++ per person.

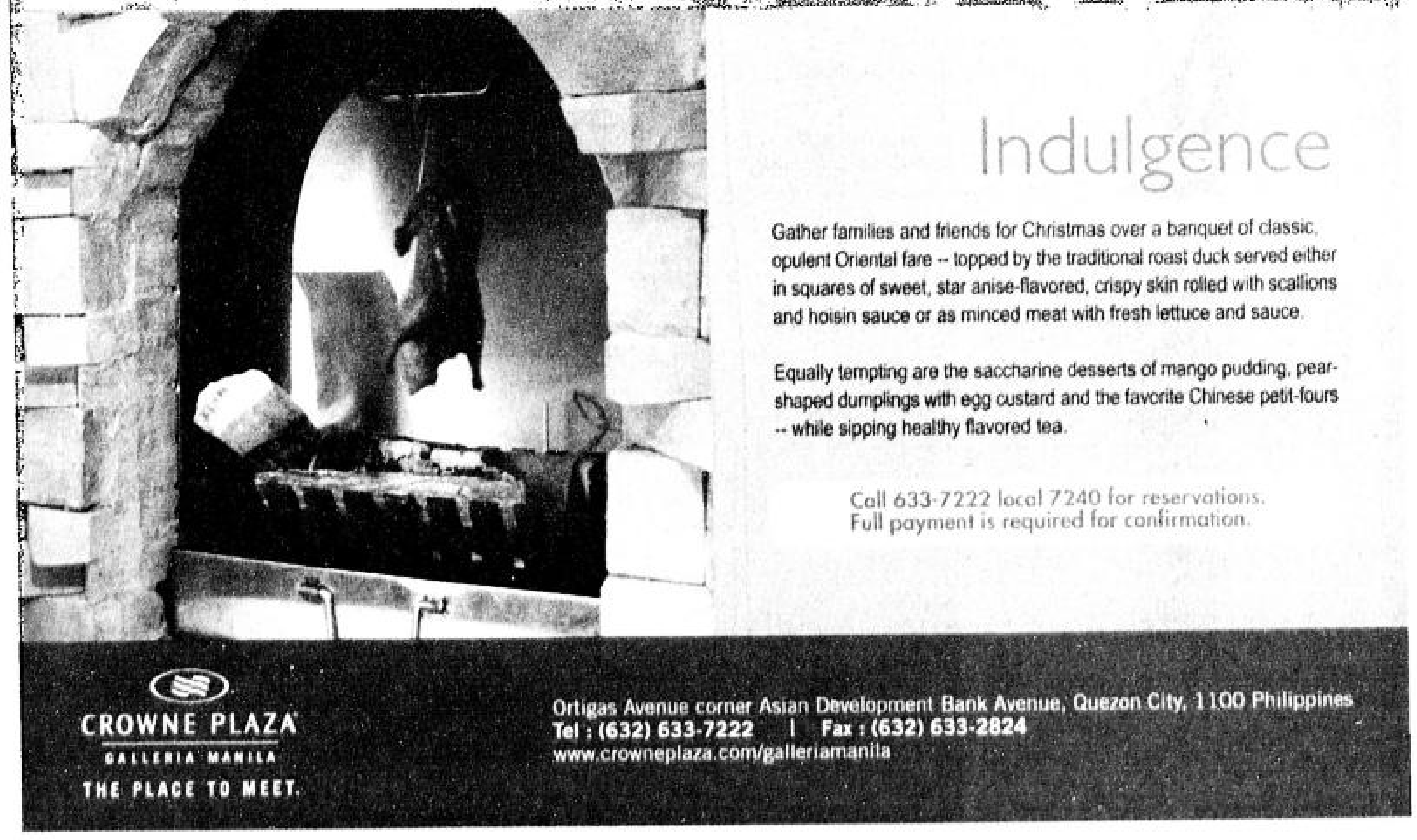
Call 633-7222 local 7220 for reservations.
Full payment is required for confirmation.

Crowning the year with a bang!

Ramp up the revelry on New Year's Eve and let us take you to the Seven Corners of the world where we'll spoil you with a hefty buffet of festive favorites paired with fruity champagnes. Get a dose of tomato juice shooters and other hang-over recovery delights with your first sumptuous brunch for the New Year! Enjoy baked goodies, hearty dishes and special pralines to go with your brunch meal.

[illegible] at P2,200++ per person
[illegible] Hang-over Brunch at P1,200++ per person

Call 633-7222 local 7220 for reservations.
Full payment is required for confirmation.


Indulgence

Gather families and friends for Christmas over a banquet of classic, opulent Oriental fare -- topped by the traditional roast duck served either in squares of sweet, star anise-flavored, crispy skin rolled with scallions and hoisin sauce or as minced meat with fresh lettuce and sauce.

Equally tempting are the saccharine desserts of mango pudding, pear-shaped dumplings with egg custard and the favorite Chinese petit-fours -- while sipping healthy flavored tea.

Call 633-7222 local 7240 for reservations.
Full payment is required for confirmation.

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Tel : (632) 633-7222 | Fax : (632) 633-2824
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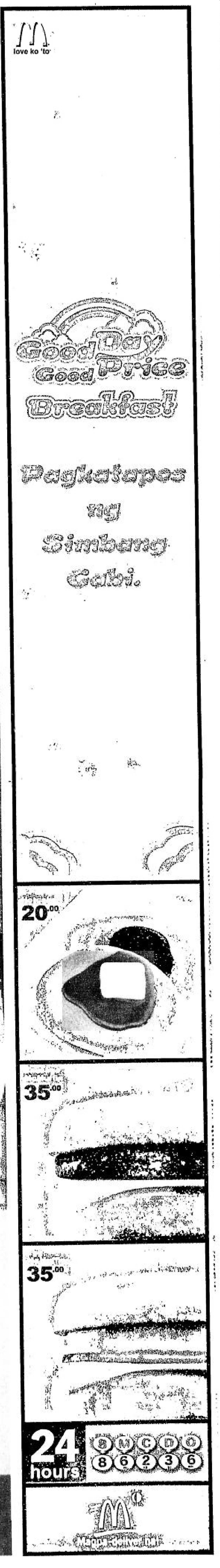

love ko 'to

Good Day Good Price Breakfast!

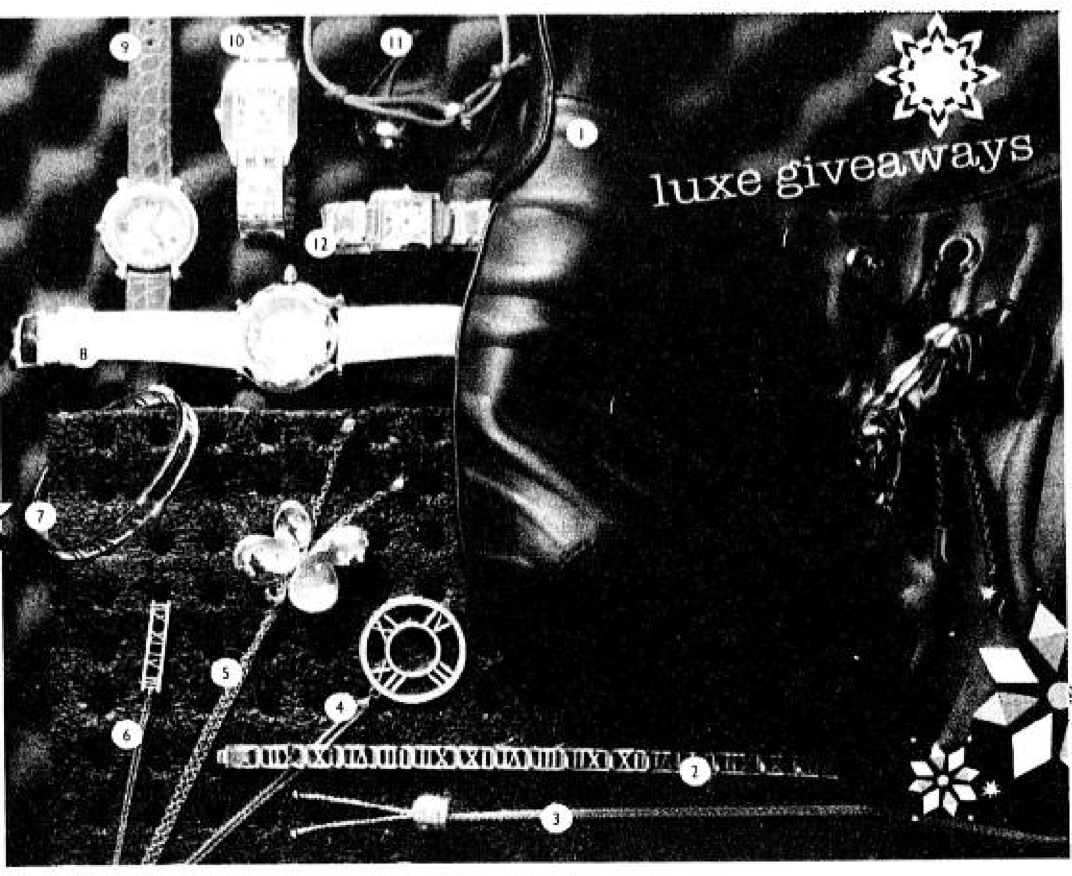
Pagkatapos ng Simbang Gabi.

20.00

35.00

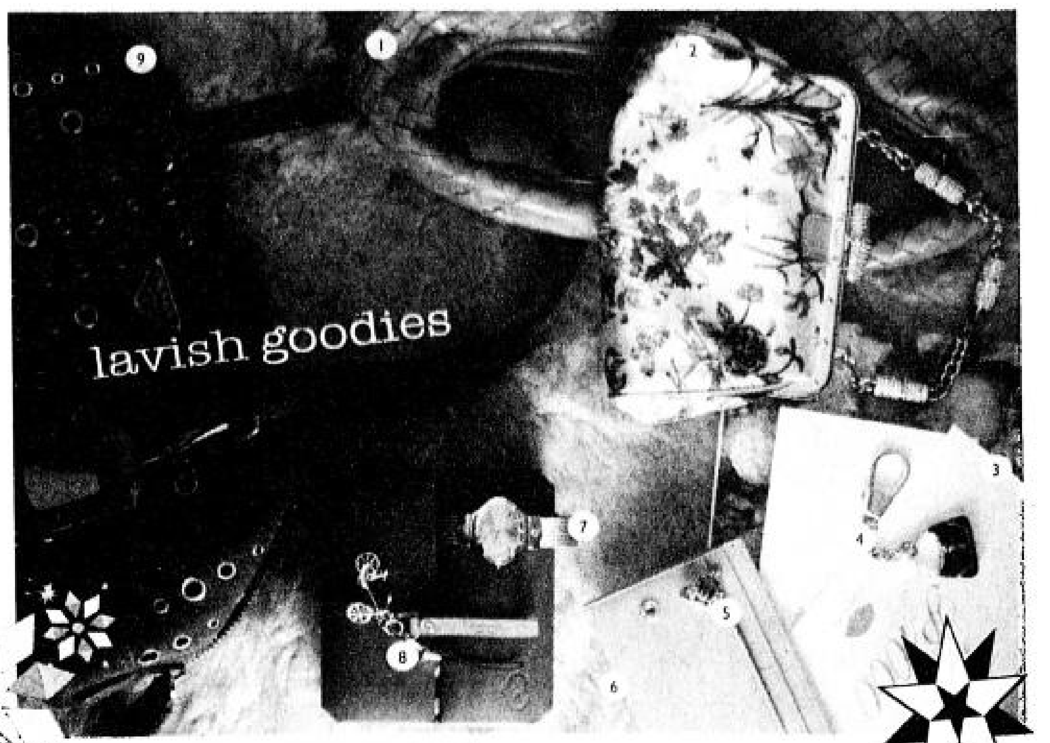
35.00

24 hours 8MCDO 86236



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) 1 CARTIER BAG, P86,000. 2 TIFFANY & CO. BRACELET, P171,000. 3 PIAGET NECKLACE, P155,000. 4 TIFFANY & CO. NECKLACE, P87,000. 5 ROBERTO COIN NECKLACE, P265,000. 6 TIFFANY & CO. NECKLACE, P49,000. 7 TIFFANY & CO. BANGLE, P175,000. 8 CHOPARD WATCH WITH WHITE STRAPS, P965,000. 9 CHOPARD WATCH WITH RED STRAPS, P3,990,000. 10 CARTIER WATCH, P830,000. 11 CARTIER BRACELETS, P30,000 TO P34,500 EACH. 12 CARTIER WATCH, P865,000.

PHOTOGRAPHY DIX (0917-5219887) STYLING KAT CRUZ GIFT ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT EITHER SM, RUSTAN'S OR STORE SPECIALISTS INC. OUTLETS SPECIAL THANKS TO KIT, AC AND FERDIE



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) 1 BOTTEGA VENETA BAG, P84,000. 2 GUCCI BAG, P64,000. 3 MANDARIN ORIENTAL GIFT CERTIFICATES. 4 GUCCI KEY CHAIN, P3,950. 5 GUCCI PENDANT, P62,000. 6 KATE SPADE WALLET, P8,250. 7 PHILIPPE CHARRIOLL WATCH, P82,500. 8 KATE SPADE CELL PHONE LANYARD, P2,250. 9 PRADA BAG, P88,500.

Tick...tick... tinsel time!

Play the Magus and shop for gifts, quick

By Alex Y. Vergara

THERE ARE EXACTLY nine—and not 12—days left before the big day, and time is ticking by fast. If you've put off buying gifts during the past several weeks due to a million and one concerns, here's some bad news for you: there's no stopping Christmas!

In the Philippines, where people's thoughts turn to ham and *queso de bola* even before the last tinsel from the current Christmas is stowed, you know you have to act bullet-train fast as soon as the traditional nine-day *simbang gabi*, which began early this morning, rolls in.

But all isn't lost as you begin your mad dash for the ideal gift. With a little (okay, sometimes ample) cash and plenty of imagination, you can snare the perfect present guaranteed to bring absolute Yuletide cheer to your object of affection.

While you were busy finalizing your list, INQUIRER Fashion decided to play Santa Claus by coming up with a few holiday gift ideas that cater to a wide range of budgets and preferences.

So, what are you standing there for? Don't wait until the first snow falls in Manila before you act. The time has come to finally hit the mall—or your town's version of Divisoria—and bring out that inner Santa in you.

Email the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

lush gifts
1
2
3
4
5
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7
8

(CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT) 1 PARISIAN WEDGES, P499.75. 2 MODA FEMME BARRETTES, P1,599.75 EACH. 3 MODA FEMME PONYTAIL HOLDER, P999.75. 4 MS. HANDBAG COLLECTION BAG, P699.75. 5 MS. HANDBAG COLLECTION BAG, P499.75. 6 MS. HANDBAG COLLECTION BAG, P399.75. 7 MODA FEMME PELICAN CLIP, P799. 8 SM DEPARTMENT STORE LIGHTERS, P299.75 EACH.

gentleman's presents
1
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10

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT) 1 DUNHILL JACKET, P90,000. 2 GUCCI MONEY CLIP, P6,250. 3 ERMENEILDO ZEGNA MADE-TO-ORDER SUITS, P263,000 AND UP. 4 PRADA BAG, P56,000. 5 BOTTEGA VENETA LEATHER CUFF, P15,500. 6 BOTTEGA VENETA LEATHER BRACELET, P12,500. 7 DUNHILL WATCH, P225,000. 8 GUCCI PLANNER, P26,950. 9 BALLY CELL PHONE LANYARD, P6,450. 10 BURBERRY MINI IPOD HOLDER, P11,500.

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND

Enjoy the magic of Hong Kong Disneyland with Visa.

Visa Hong Kong Disneyland Getaway

Have a magical vacation in Hong Kong Disneyland the Visa way -- get a chance to win a round trip for a family of 4 to Hong Kong Disneyland. Plus enjoy breakfast with your favorite Disney characters, and receive 2 FASTPASS tickets per guest (8 for a family of 4) for line reservations in selected rides and shows.

Be mesmerized and dazzled with the 4 magical worlds of Hong Kong Disneyland. Experience what it was like in the turn of the 20th Century in **Main Street, USA**. Be intrigued at the mysterious jungle of **Adventureland**. Meet Mickey and all his friends in **Fantasyland** and blast into outer space at futuristic **Tomorrowland**! Timeless tales and bold adventures are brought magically to life for children of all ages.

Mechanics:
1. Promo Period: 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006.
2. Minimum of P500 single-receipt Visa purchase will allow Visa cardholder to register his/her Visa transaction for a chance to win one (1) of seven (7) Family of Four packages to Hong Kong Disneyland on March 2-4, 2006. PLUS HK$5,000 pocket money*.

How to join?
Register your Visa transactions at any of the following available channels:

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SMS: Text Visa for details. P2.50 per text will be charged.	Globe - 2361 Smart - 325 Visa <name as it appears on card,address,issuing bank,last 4 digit,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction> and send to the corresponding access number of your mobile network. (Note that there are no spaces after each comma. Please do not use commas for amounts more than P999.99, and when entering the address.) Ex. Visa MENNIE SO,24/F 6750 AYALA AVENUE MAKATI CITY,AIG,1234,1000.25,112705,1808

2. Call Center: Metro Manila - 637 2768, Provincial - Toll Free # 1800-1888-2591

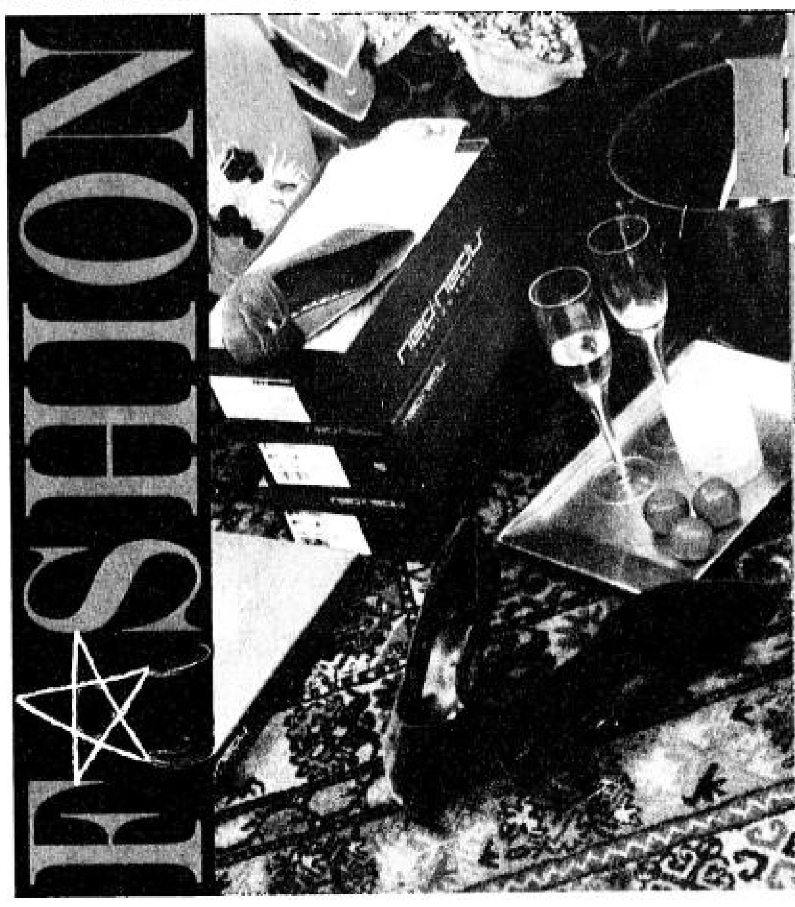
3. Website: www.hblmasla.com/visa

Disney VISA

*Per family of four
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3082. Series of 2005

LIFESTYLE

FASHION

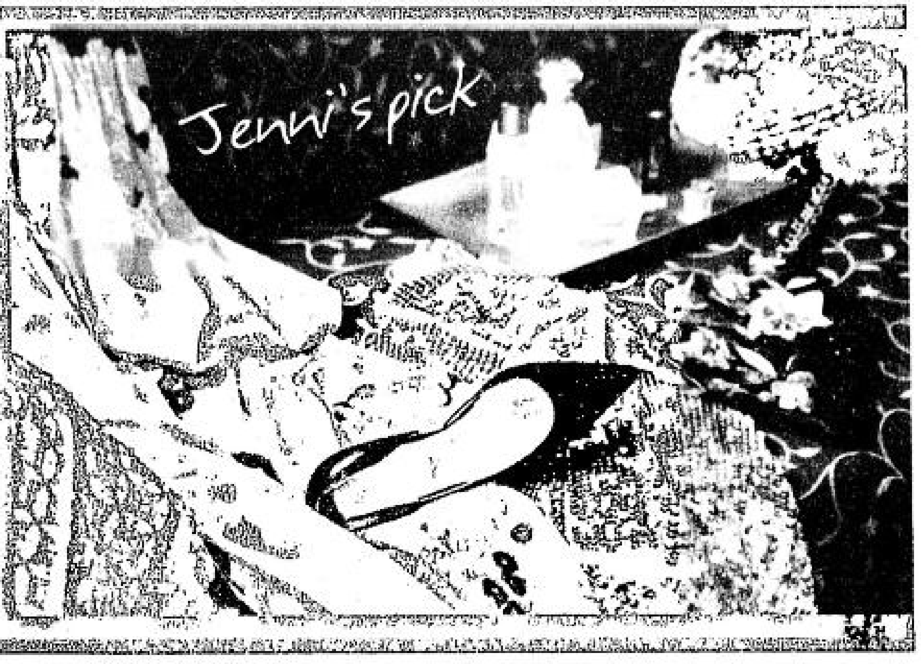


Editors' Picks

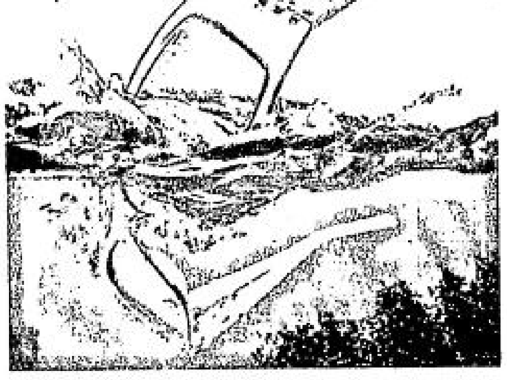
Hot stepper

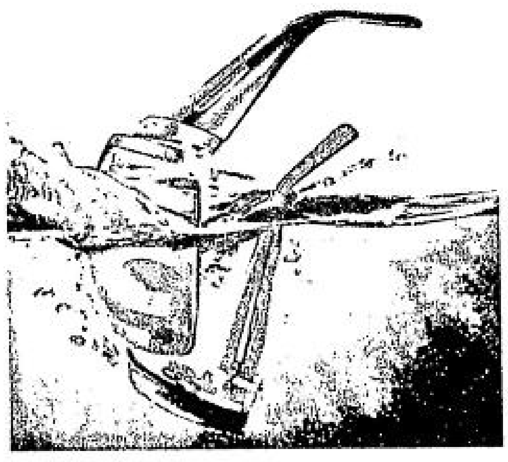
HOTWIND BRINGS ITS QUIRKY FLAIR to a more accessible life. Stride in style as the Shanghainese brand opens its doors at Glorietta. Popular for its whimsical take on classic designs, be smitten with ballet flats, round-toe pumps and platform wedges, all artfully crafted and remarkably created for chic, comfortable fashion.

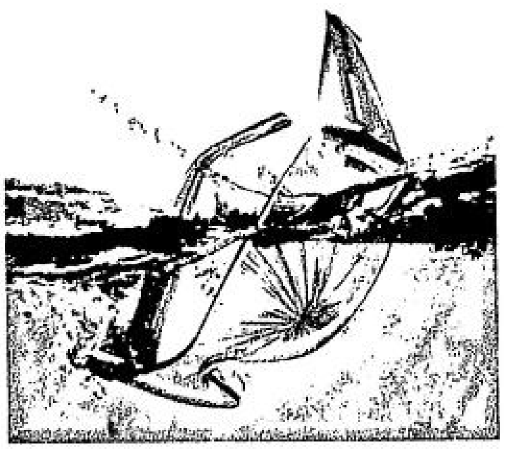
Hotwind, 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.


Jenni's pick

Apple's pick







Eye party

TECHNOMARINE'S EYEWEAR collection is the toast of every ball this season.

Be a vision in the Geneve collection of Jackie O-inspired styles—the oversized design selection with a high-temple detail. Or step out as the stunning four-eyed Usher with prescriptive lenses.

Both collections are encrusted with Swarovski crystals, and whether they're in leather, metal or plastic, oversized or rimless, the pieces all come in vibrant colors.

TechnoMarine eyewear is available at the TechnoMarine Flagship Store at G/F, Greenbelt 3 (tel. 7573975); TechnoMarine Boutique, 3/F, SM Megamall, Bldg. A, (6317491); Rafael Jewellery, 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6363399), Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine Level, Makati Shangri-la Hotel (8138501); My Diamond, UG/L, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center (9124013); and selected Sarabia and Sabater Pascual outlets in Metro Manila.

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICDAO

bench/
lifestyle + clothing
www.benchtm.com

Holiday express

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

CHRISTMAS IS THE BEST excuse to hit the town in fab finery.

If you're coming from school or the office, the simplest and quickest way to put together a special-occasion look is to add a festive top to jeans or black pants. But why stop there when the holiday season allows you to deck yourself in all-out glamour and sparkle?

Make a grand entrance in an eye-popping long gown in the season's richest hues like purple, green, or red, in trendy yet flattering textures such as satin, velvet or jersey.

A gown will make you feel like royalty: You walk with your back a little straighter and your head a little higher.

Accessories can always turn any outfit into a festive occasion itself. But since you don't want to outshine the lights on the tree, keep the glitz on a main piece such as a bolero, or on accents like piping on a dress or jewelry like necklaces, earrings and brooches.

Another holiday must is the clutch bag, which will remain steadfast wherever you go. The perfect evening clutch should be in a safe but fun color that will match practically anything in your wardrobe. You can't go wrong with gold or white, but for added pizzazz try turquoise or red.

Ah, there's nothing like the holidays. A time for indulgence and excess, of overdecorating, overspending, overeating. So go ahead—overdress, overaccessorize, and over-party!

LYLE Ibañez dress (0916-2172951); Happy David necklace; Salvatore Ferragamo bag, P39,500

DENNIS Lustico dress (8977030); Lucy in the Sky earrings, P1,600; Kenneth Cole necklace, P2,950; and bag, P5,450

RONALDO Arnaldo dress (0917-5259823); Get Happy necklace, P595; DKNY bag, P12,500

LYLE Ibañez dress (0916-2172951); Get Happy necklace, P595; Tod's bag, P39,500

Make a grand entrance
in an eye-popping long gown
in the season's richest hues
like purple, green, or red,
in trendy yet flattering textures
such as satin, velvet or jersey

Rush is . . .

Compiled by Jenni Epperson

... meant to save time, like if only 20 of my friends could band together and shop for me one joint gift from Fendi!
—Angelique Villaraza, PR manager, Professional Products Division, L'Oreal Philippines

... your first serving of *kanin* after two weeks on the Atkins diet.
—JM Rodriguez, actor, TV host

... the sensation in your bones when you know something is about to happen, but don't know what.
—Jack Madrid, MTV Philippines managing director

... how fast you have to move to get backstage after a Gian Romano show when Tim, Jenni and Celine are around. It is also how fast you have to write a check at an art exhibit when Paulino Que is nearby.
—Norman Crisologo, painter

... what I feel when I'm performing before an audience. My life would never be complete without it.
—Zsa Zsa Padilla, singer, actress

... a feeling of overwhelming certainty, especially when you've met your match.
—Robby Mananquil, model, DJ

Couture . . .

From page F4

this point. We even had mood music playing all afternoon. But you could feel the nervous energy heighten as the show drew nearer.

Inno slipped in and out of the room to make sure that everything was up to par. The fashion show was going to start right after two sets of performances by renowned opera singers from New York, and he wanted to make sure that we were ready to go onstage as soon as they were done.

Remembering Richard

Every single model was made up and ready to change by 8:30 p.m. It's common practice for the group to say a prayer right before the show so Inno gathered us for this purpose.

The atmosphere turned emotional as Inno thanked everyone for being a part of the production, the first one he was doing without his longtime partner Richard Tann, who passed away last summer.

Richard didn't actually want him to do the project, but because Richard succumbed to a heart attack and this show would benefit children with heart ailments, Inno opted to go ahead with it.

Want to try out the look? Call Oman Dalvz of Inkcentric Tattoo and Body Piercing Studio at 0917-3348879.

After Richard's passing, Inno found that the show's concept and production design were already finalized in Richard's computer.

My co-models and I tried our best not to weep for fear of ruining the makeup that Patrick and his team painstakingly applied. The show was about to start and there was no time for major retouches.

Inno managed to end the speech on a lighter note. Director Melvin Mojica could not stop crying though, as he gave last-minute instructions.

Meanwhile, makeup artist Marlon Suarez went about his business of powdering noses in spite of his red nose and teary eyes.

This certainly proved how beloved Richard was and still is. We swore to do our best for him as we moved to the ballroom to change into our frocks.

Firecrackers

Inno checked on each one of us with an eagle eye for the smallest of details as we donned his sublime creations. His posse of well-trained sewers was on hand to make last-minute adjustments, if necessary.

As the perfect finishing touch, Inno spritzed each of us with Guerlain Shalimar. We were finally ready to start the show.

Annette Coronel opened the show dressed in a "Carmen"-inspired corset top and embroidered toreador pants. She looked arresting, of course, as did the rest of the models who stepped on stage and hugged the limelight.

I stood backstage waiting nervously for my turn when all of a sudden I heard popping noises, like exploding firecrackers. We all thought it was part of the program, but apparently it was a short circuit that started a small fire.

The lights flickered and went out and suddenly we heard the sound of a fire extinguisher dousing the flames. I had never experienced anything this surreal in my years as a model.

I could see bewildered faces all around me, but thankfully, everyone, especially Inno, managed to stay calm and collected. His closest group of friends and muses like Mandy de la Rama and Margarita Fores appeared backstage to lend their support, as the technicians worked double-time to get the power back up.

Unfortunately, the power was not restored completely so we could not use all the lights required for the show. This didn't stop any of us, though.

In spite of the technical setback (or maybe because of it), the show went beautifully. Each of Inno's creations shone as the models paraded on stage. And to show their appreciation, the audience gave Inno a much-deserved standing ovation.

It's time to pack away my stilettos and false lashes once more. That is, until the next Inno Sotto experience.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

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Electric Kettle	AK-175W	P399.00
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Coffee Maker	ACM-1000V	P1,299.00
Water Dispenser	AH20-1T	P2,199.00
Rice Cooker	ARC-JAR10F	P899.00
Rice Cooker	ARC-25WS	P749.00
Rice Cooker	ARC-1800W	P699.00
Rice Cooker	ARC-20W	P648.00
Turbo Broiler	MTB-830M	P2,199.00
Waffle Maker	AWM-700	P549.00
Sandwich Maker	ASM-700	P549.00
Microwave Oven	AMW-210LM	P2,998.00
Microwave Oven	AMW-51MT	P2,695.00
Microwave Oven	AMW-E168W	P3,650.00
Microwave Oven	AMW-E25SX	P5,299.00
Microwave Oven	AMW-2100GW	P4,199.00
Flat Iron	ADI-351S	P499.00
Cyclone Vacuum Cleaner	AVU-CYC1200	P2,499.00
Cordless Steam Iron	AHSI-1200B	P799.00
Vacuum Cleaner	AVU-1600	P2,499.00

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Pillsbury makes Christmas delightfully delicious and surprisingly easy.

BACKSTAGE PASS BACKSTAGE PASS BACKSTAGE PASS BACKSTAGE PASS BACKSTAGE

Inno gives a heartfelt speech that moves most of us to tears. We all dedicate the show to our beloved Richard Tann.

After a well-deserved standing ovation, Inno poses with his models for a couple of "class pictures." Gino Gonzales designed the impressive set.

Voila! That's me with gargantuan headpieces and elephantine lashes.

(Left) Patrick Rosas and his team hard at work, performing their makeup magic on models like Grace Molina. The afternoon can drag on as you wait to have your hair and face done, but I have fun bonding with good friends Izza, Suyen and Annette.

Director Melvin Mojica can't stop crying, as he gives last-minute instructions.

PHOTOS: JOANN BITAGCOL

Couture tales

Inno gave a heartfelt speech, the director wept, and a short circuit added to the excitement

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, I swore that I would retire my stilettos and false eyelashes and never set foot on the catwalk again. But when Inno Sotto asked me to do "Beloved," his latest fashion show, this ex-model couldn't say no. The experience of being in an Inno production is, to put it simply, truly incomparable and irresistible.

This is probably due to Inno's fine attention to detail. He understands that fashion is not just about the clothes you wear but also about life and style. More important, he is a perfectionist who will never settle. As a result, he challenges everyone around himself—hairstylists, makeup artists, models, wardrobe mistresses—to be the best they can be.

I wasn't sure if I was ready to walk the walk, but I was willing to take on the challenge. So, I found myself at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel with models from my generation and newbies whom I'd never had the chance to work with until then.

Show day usually begins with a three-hour rehearsal in the morning, which is when we learn our sequences and cues and familiarize ourselves with the stage and music. This is followed by a quick lunch and a whole afternoon backstage or in one of the many hotel function rooms, gussy-ing up for the big event.

Although the afternoon can drag on, I had a good time bonding with friends and soaking up all the energy from a mélange of artistic individuals like makeup maven Patrick Rosas and stylist Michael Salientes.

Transformations

Inno's inspiration for the show was the opera—"Madame Butterfly" "Turandot," and "Carmen," to be more specific. So, the look was theatrical and extremely stylized and required a whole gob of red eye shadow, gargantuan headpieces and elephantine eyelashes.

To our horror, we were told that our eyebrows were to be bleached blonde in order to achieve the desired look. We tried to dodge the inevitable; Suyen Chi, one of Inno's longtime favorite models, literally ran from Patrick's clutches, to no avail, of course!

Makeup and then hair followed the bleaching process. We were 36 models in all so it was a long wait. The headpieces, although fabulous, were uncomfortable (mine were pulling my hair and scalp out!) and we had to don these for at least two to three hours.

The atmosphere was somewhat relaxed at

COUTURE/ F2

Inno checks on every single model with an eagle eye for the smallest of details.

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- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Banilad Town Center, Cebu
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
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- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

Per DTI-Permit No. 4000 Series of 2005.

LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

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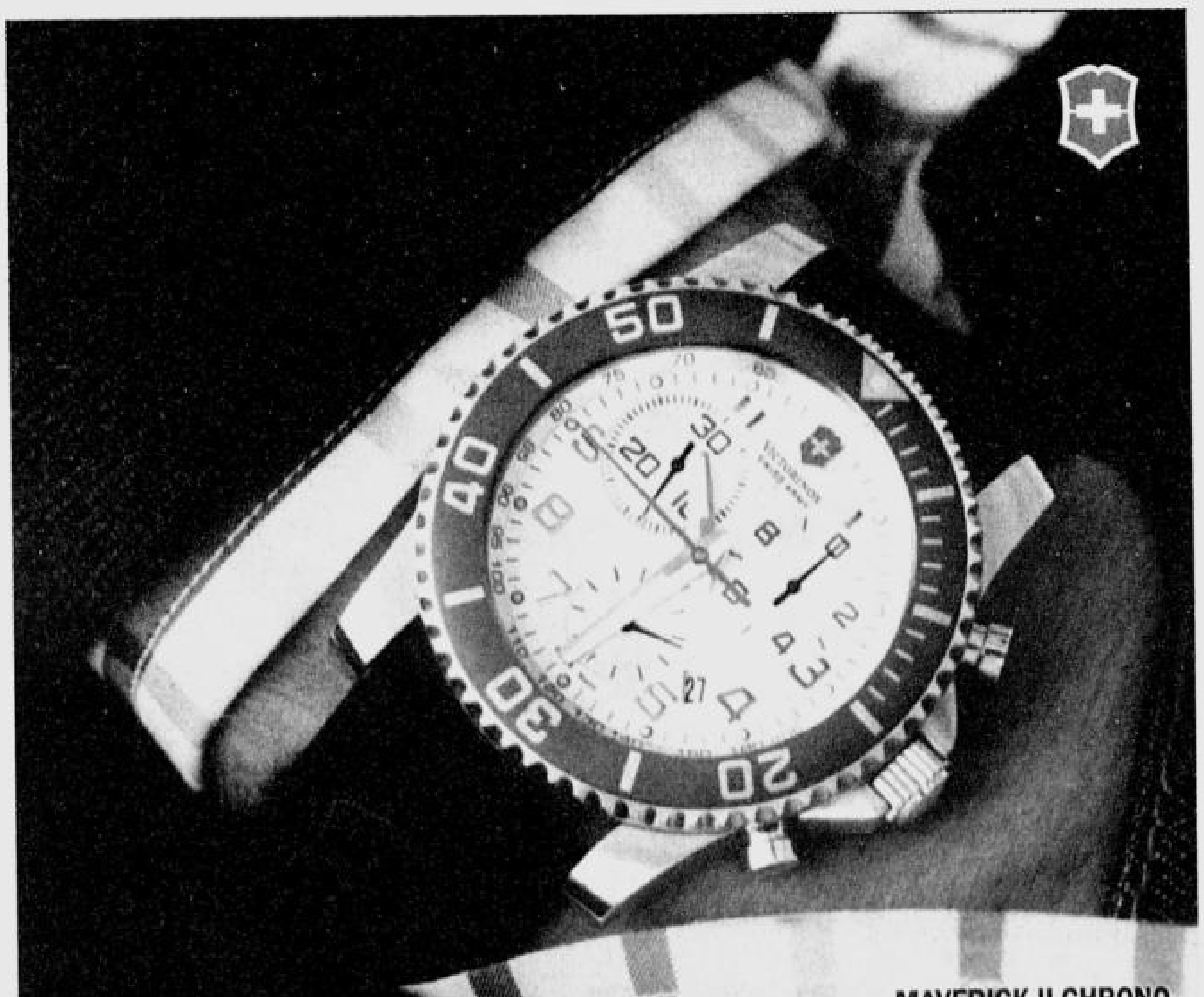
Beauty on the go
p. G3

Treat yourself p. G3

Get inspired
p. G4



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Editor's pick

BREEZE THROUGH HOLIDAY STRESS WITH the delicate scent of luxury that lingers on for hours (60 hours, to be exact). Favored by A-list celebrities and often featured in top magazines, Tocca, especially its candles, is a cult classic in the beauty and fashion industry. Avid followers are Ashley Judd, Winona Ryder, Drew Barrymore and Sarah Jessica Parker. Crafted with old European traditions of great appreciation for timeless aromas and picturesque surroundings, Tocca fragrances transport you to exotic places that inspire moods and emotions of feminine yet vibrant spirits. From vine-ripened tomatoes, old European garden roses, fresh vanilla and honey, to the luscious scent of red currant, its romantic and eclectic appeal is a soothing blend of serenity and style.

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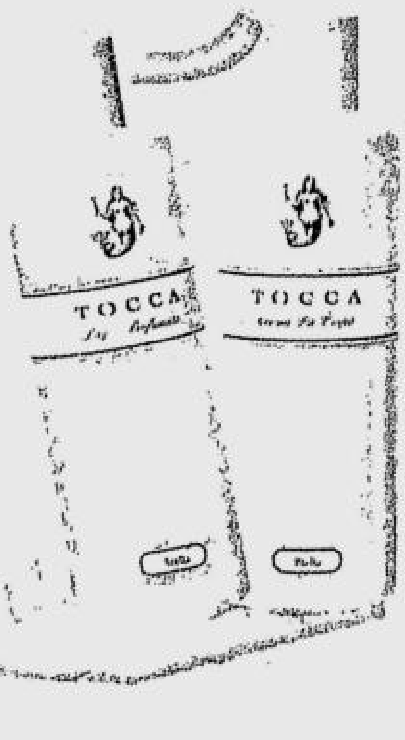
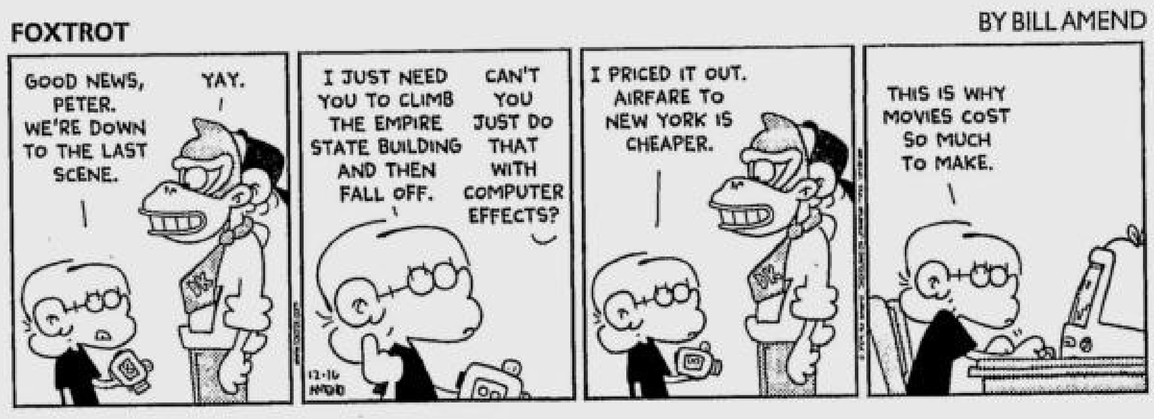


ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

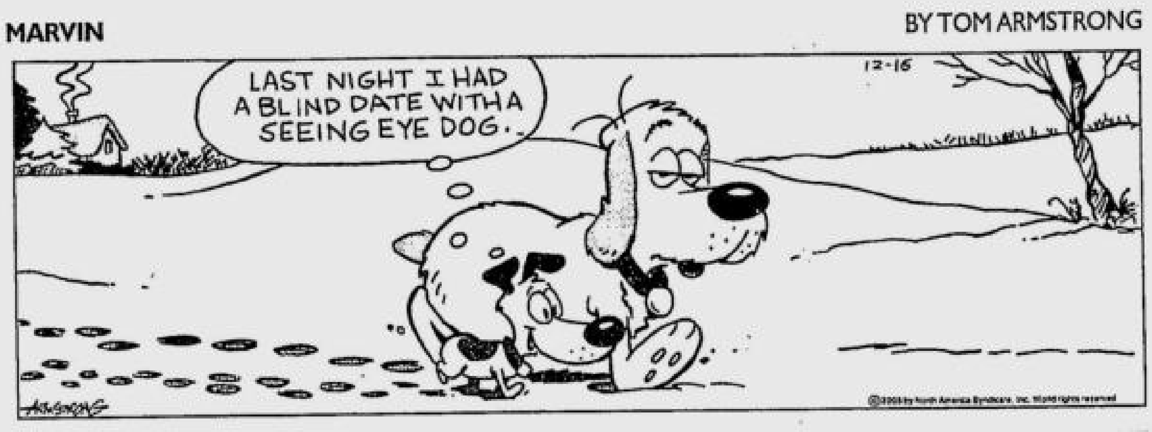
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


GOOD NEWS, PETER. WE'RE DOWN TO THE LAST SCENE.
YAY.
I JUST NEED YOU TO CLIMB THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING AND THEN FALL OFF.
CAN'T YOU JUST DO THAT WITH COMPUTER EFFECTS?
12-16
I PRICED IT OUT. AIRFARE TO NEW YORK IS CHEAPER.
THIS IS WHY MOVIES COST SO MUCH TO MAKE.

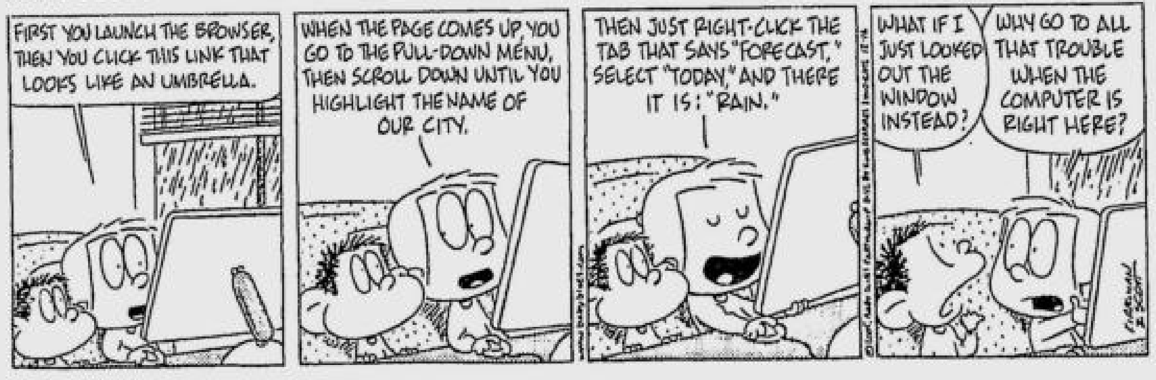
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LAST NIGHT I HAD A BLIND DATE WITH A SEEING EYE DOG.
12-16

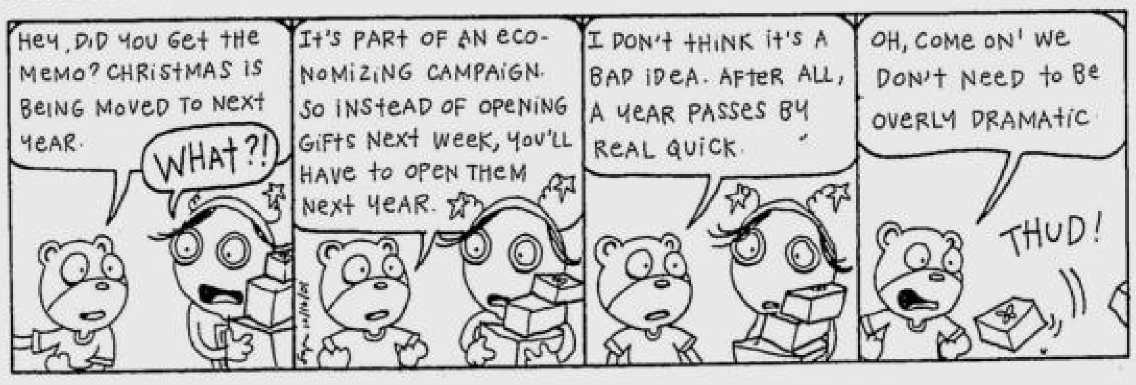
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FIRST YOU LAUNCH THE BROWSER, THEN YOU CLICK THIS LINK THAT LOOKS LIKE AN UMBRELLA.
WHEN THE PAGE COMES UP, YOU GO TO THE PULL-DOWN MENU, THEN SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU HIGHLIGHT THE NAME OF OUR CITY.
THEN JUST RIGHT-CLICK THE TAB THAT SAYS "FORECAST," SELECT "TODAY," AND THERE IT IS: "RAIN."
WHAT IF I JUST LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW INSTEAD?
WHY GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE WHEN THE COMPUTER IS RIGHT HERE?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, DID you Get the Memo? CHRISTMAS is Being Moved To Next year.
WHAT?!
It's PART OF AN eco-NoMiZiNG CAMPAIGN. So INSTEAD OF opeNiNG Gifts Next week, you'LL HAVE to OPEN THEM Next yEAR.
I DON'T tHINK it'S A BAD iDEA. AFTER ALL, A year PASSES By ReAL QUICK.
OH, Come ON! We DON'T Need to Be overly DRAMAtic.
THUD!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a wonderful imagination. You're a visionary. You're also very much in touch with the physical world. This combination makes you careless and hugely accomplished. There is little you will not attempt. Stay on target with your ideals. In the year ahead, let go of things in order to make room for something new to enter. **Birthdate of:** Steven Bochco, producer; Benjamin Bratt, actor; Jane Austen, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to come to a nice, sensible decision about how to share property and treat everyone. Your thinking is very fair and very balanced.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day for important discussions with partners, spouses and close friends. You feel generous, and yet at the same time, you're not going to give away the farm.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can get a lot of work done today. You have the right attitude. You know that too much work or too much play is off-balance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day for the arts, professional sports, show business, the entertainment world and anything having to do with the hospitality industry. You see better ways of doing things!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a great day for real estate deals. It's also a good day for family discussions, whether it's about business or domestic matters. People are ready to cooperate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You sound so wise to others today. Don't be afraid to give your opinion. You easily see both sides of an issue, and you have a nice, balanced point of view.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's also the day to shop. If you are shopping, or making important decisions, do it before late afternoon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a strong sense of well-being today. You feel confident. Not only that, your confidence is realistic. You know what you can do and what you can't.

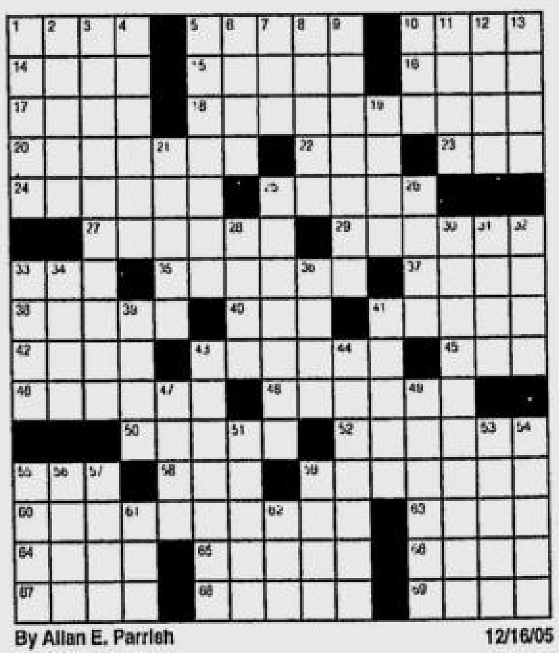
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're the philosopher of the zodiac. You also love animals, and you love the outdoors. Today you feel very spiritually connected with everything that is important to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a wonderful day to deal with friends, groups and clubs. Everybody seems to be in a sensible frame of mind, yet they're enthusiastic about your suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your career is going to get so much better this year. That's because you're starting to make some important decisions about your life path. Today this is evident to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans and ideas about education look good. You see how to encompass all of this very nicely in your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

12/16/05

ACROSS
1 Playwright David
5 Feudal workers
10 "Ironside" org.
14 M. Friedman's field
15 Bow or Barton
16 1844 presidential also-ran
17 Salamander
18 Hilton, e.g.
20 Daytona 500 champ Bobby
22 Postal limbo, initially
23 Coll. senior's test
24 Secular
25 Hoosegows
27 Cancel out
29 Fit to be served
33 Panhandle
35 Pound sounds
37 Othello, e.g.
38 Suggest
40 Actor Keanu
41 Mason-__ Line
42 Leave out
43 Oracle location
45 ETO leader
46 Premier passive protestor
48 40th U.S. President
50 Spacek of "Carrie"
52 Look-alike
55 CAFTA signer
58 __ sequitur
59 Waldorf-__
60 Former NBC trauma-drama
63 Demeanor
64 Top-drawer
65 British saltpeter
66 Any part of JFK
67 Letters before www
68 More cunning
69 Freudian concerns

DOWN
1 Of the kidneys
2 Amtrak's bullet train
3 Kegler's target
4 Lure
5 Studious one
6 North Carolina university
7 Kind of race
8 Author Adler
9 Witty quips
10 SMU or MSU
11 National colors
12 Twosome
13 Unit of force
19 Winter weather word
21 Droopy
25 This puzzle's theme
26 __ Valley, CA
28 Verbal subtlety
30 Fight site
31 Facial expression
32 Coastal bird
33 Bookstore sec.
34 Austin work
36 Canter
39 Some old Fords
41 Finger or toe
43 Renounces
44 More severe
47 Rear
49 Personal instability
51 Exemplar of slowness
53 Refrain in a children's song
54 Engages in diatribe
55 Beehive State
56 Whiskey serving
57 __ it the truth
59 Farm measure
61 Bodybuilder's count
62 Device for the deaf: abbr.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	D	■	L	A	V	A	S	■	O	L	D	E	R
A	M	A	■	A	M	I	S	H	■	R	I	A	T	A
N	A	Y	■	I	T	I	S	A	K	I	N	D	O	F
A	T	T	A	R	■	■	A	D	A	G	E	■	■	■
G	O	O	D	D	E	E	D	■	T	I	N	G	L	E
E	R	N	E	S	T	S	■	B	E	N	■	A	B	E
R	Y	A	S	■	E	S	N	E	■	A	A	R	O	N
■	■	■	T	O	S	A	Y	W	E	L	L	■	■	■
L	A	P	E	L	■	Y	E	A	R	■	B	L	A	U
O	R	E	■	I	D	S	■	R	A	T	I	O	N	S
O	C	T	A	V	E	■	Y	E	T	W	O	R	D	S
■	■	■	G	E	N	I	I	■	■	I	N	E	R	T
A	R	E	N	O	T	D	E	E	D	S	■	L	E	E
H	A	N	E	Y	■	E	L	L	E	T	■	E	W	E
S	H	A	W	L	■	A	D	I	N	S	■	I	S	L

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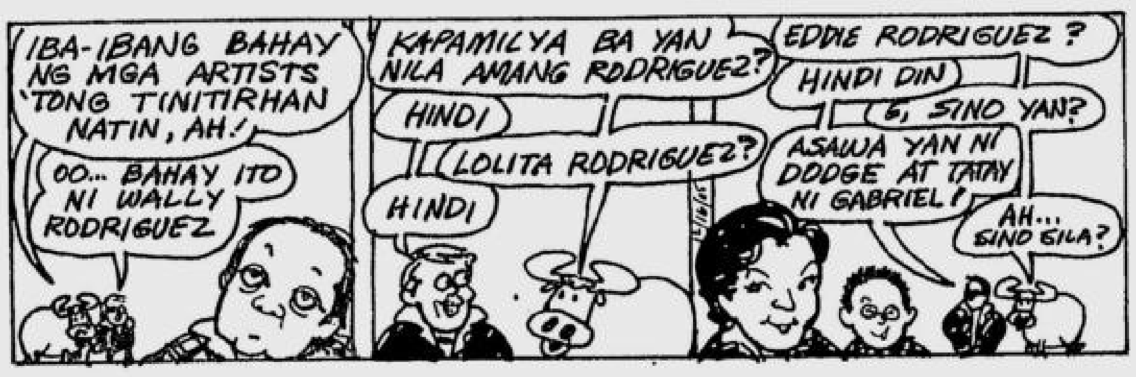
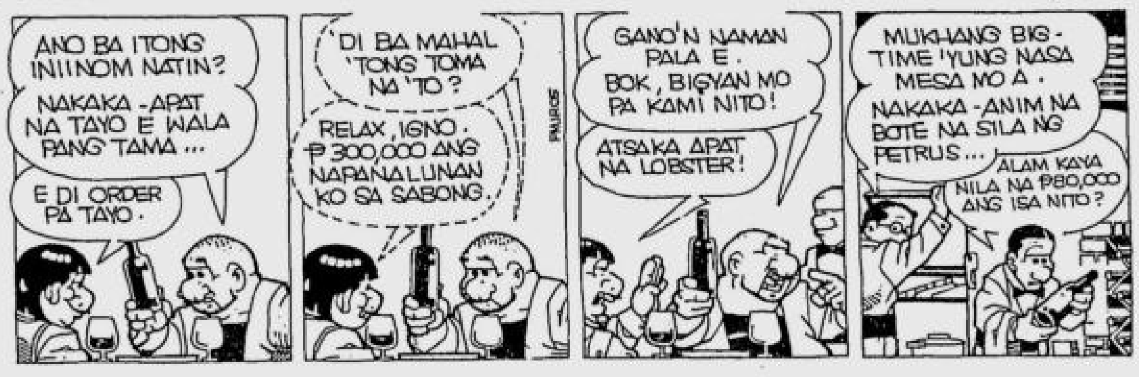
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IBA-IBANG BAHAY NG MGA ARTISTS 'TONG TINITIRHAN NATIN, AH!
OO... BAHAY ITO NI WALLY RODRIGUEZ
KAPAMILYA BA YAN NILA AMANG RODRIGUEZ?
HINDI
LOLITA RODRIGUEZ?
HINDI
EDDIE RODRIGUEZ?
HINDI DIN
E, SINO YAN?
ASAWA YAN NI DODGE AT TATAY NI GABRIEL!
AH... SINO SILA?

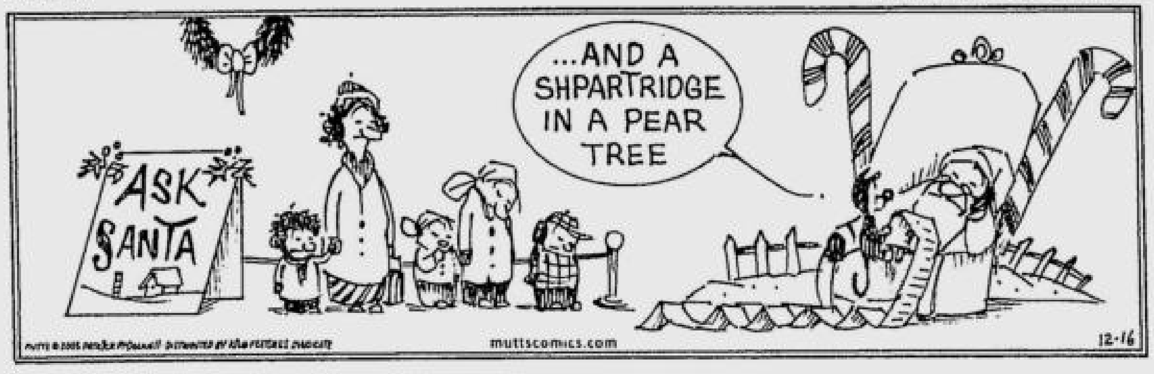
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO BA ITONG INIINOM NATIN?
NAKAKA-APAT NA TAYO E WALA PANG TAMA...
E DI ORDER PA TAYO.
'DI BA MAHAL 'TONG TOMA NA 'TO?
RELAX, IGNO. ₱300,000 ANG NAPANALUNAN KO SA SABONG.
GANO'N NAMAN PALA E. BOK, BIGYAN MO PA KAMI NITO!
ATSAKA APAT NA LOBSTER!
MUKHANG BIG-TIME 'YUNG NASA MESA MO A. NAKAKA-ANIM NA BOTE NA SILA NG PETRUS...
ALAM KAYA NILA NA ₱80,000 ANG ISA NITO?

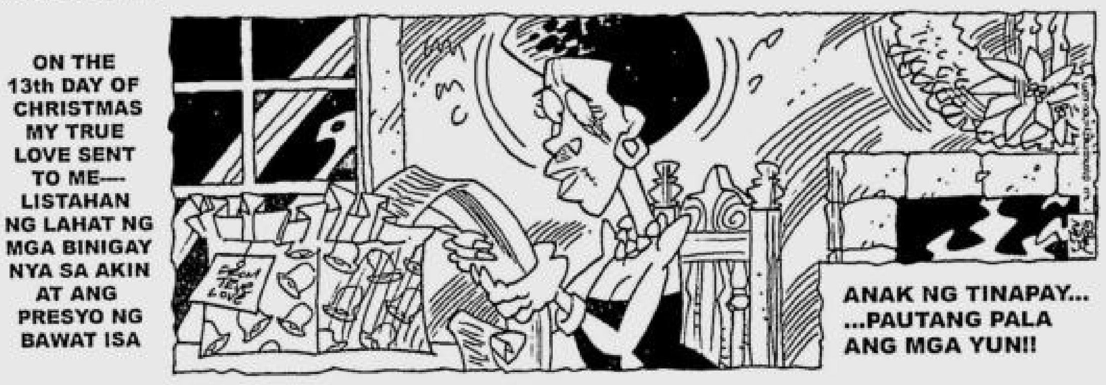
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ASK SANTA
...AND A SHPARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE
muttscomics.com
12-16

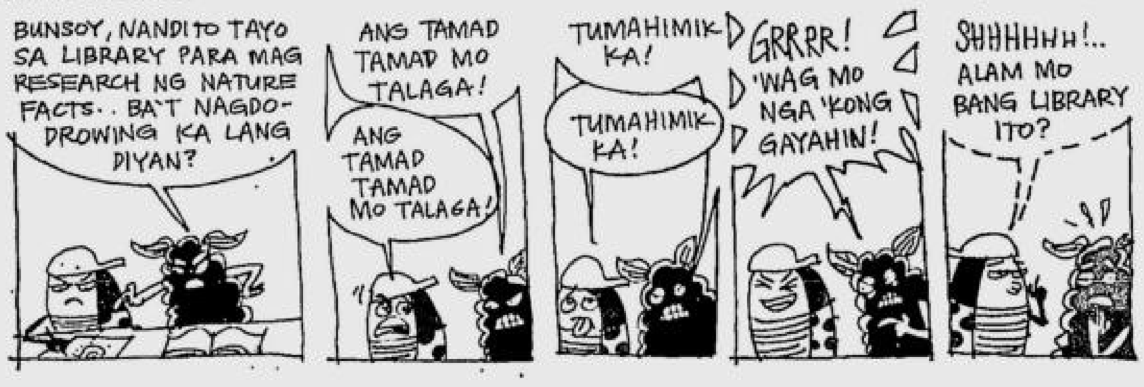
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ON THE 13th DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME— LISTAHAN NG LAHAT NG MGA BINIGAY NYA SA AKIN AT ANG PRESYO NG BAWAT ISA
ANAK NG TINAPAY... ...PAUTANG PALA ANG MGA YUN!!

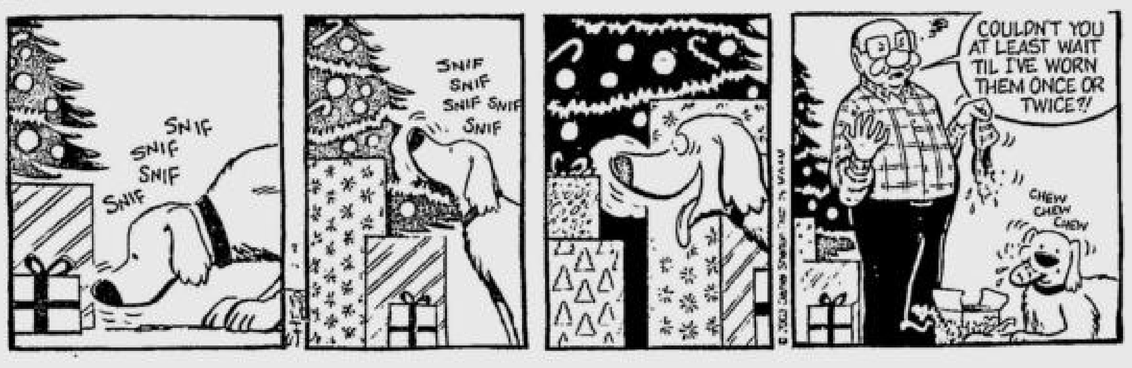
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, NANDITO TAYO SA LIBRARY PARA MAG RESEARCH NG NATURE FACTS.. BA'T NAGDO-DROWING KA LANG DIYAN?
ANG TAMAD TAMAD MO TALAGA!
ANG TAMAD TAMAD MO TALAGA!
TUMAHIMIK KA!
TUMAHIMIK KA!
GRRRR! 'WAG MO NGA 'KONG GAYAHIN!
SHHHHHH!.. ALAM MO BANG LIBRARY ITO?

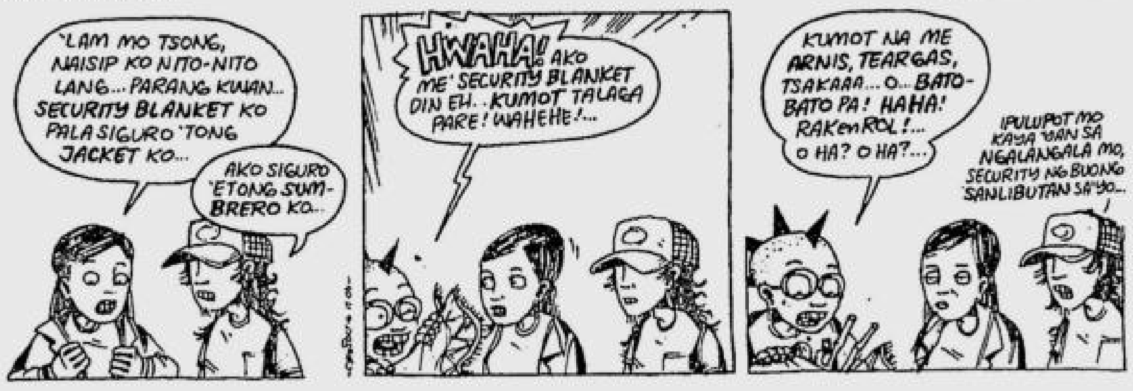
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SNIF SNIF SNIF SNIF
SNIF SNIF SNIF SNIF SNIF
COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST WAIT TIL I'VE WORN THEM ONCE OR TWICE?!
CHEW CHEW CHEW

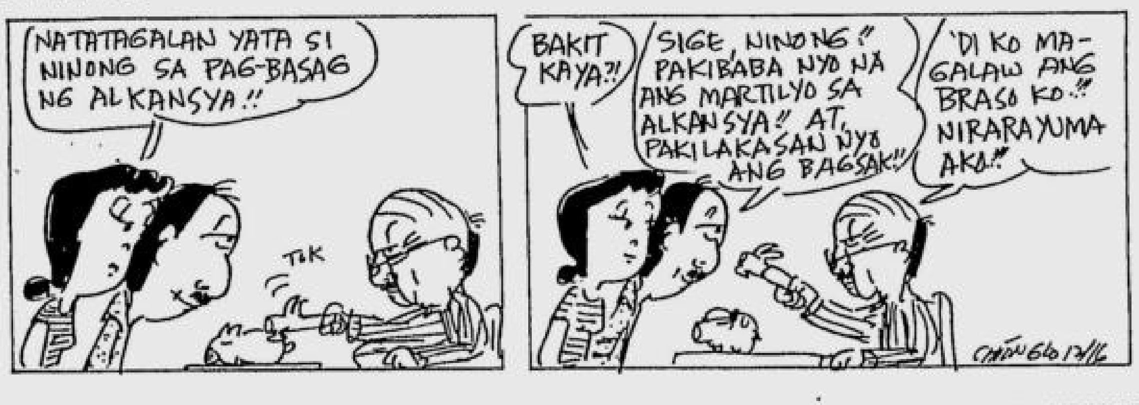
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM MO TSONG, NAISIP KO NITO-NITO LANG... PARANG KWAN... SECURITY BLANKET KO PALA SIGURO 'TONG JACKET KO...
AKO SIGURO 'ETONG SUMBRERO KO...
HWAHA! AKO ME' SECURITY BLANKET DIN EH.. KUMOT TALAGA PARE! WAHEHE!...
KUMOT NA ME ARNIS, TEARGAS, TSAKAAA... O... BATO-BATO PA! HAHA! RAKenROL!... O HA? O HA?...
IPULUPOT MO KAYA 'YAN SA NGALANGALA MO, SECURITY NG BUONG SANLIBUTAN SA'YO...

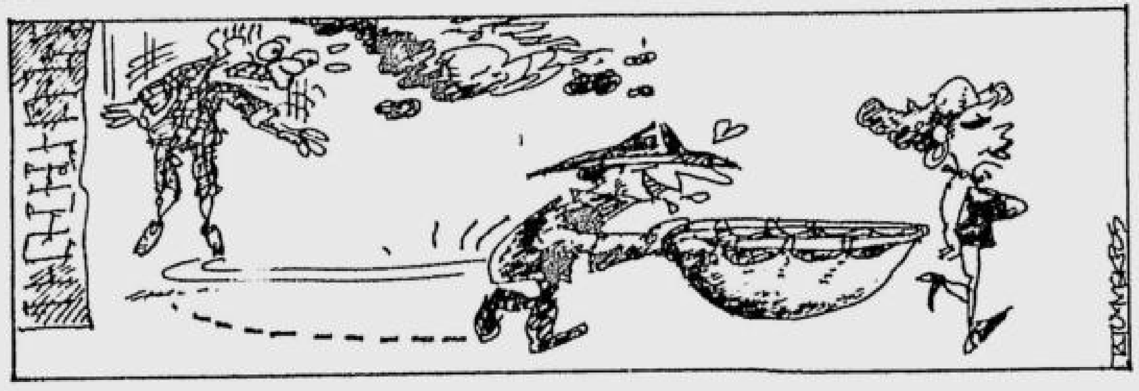
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NATATAGALAN YATA SI NINONG SA PAG-BASAG NG ALKANSYA!!
TIK
BAKIT KAYA?!
SIGE, NINONG!! PAKIBABA NYO NA ANG MARTILYO SA ALKANSYA!! AT, PAKILAKASAN NYO ANG BAGSAK!!
'DI KO MA-GALAW ANG BRASO KO!! NIRARAYUMA AKO!!
12/16

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Rush hour

Here are sure-fire ways to cope with cosmetic contingencies

By Giselle Go

A FIVE-MINUTE MAKEUP ROUTINE can bail you out of even the toughest of beauty emergencies. When there's no time to lose between the gym and the office and then the inevitable onslaught of countless holiday fetes, a capsule beauty regimen can be your lifesaver. All it takes is a well-planned arsenal of beauty quick fixes and double-duty products when you're in transit.

Beauty emergency no. 1: You have a long day ahead and your skin isn't cooperating.

Quick fix: Draw attention to your eyes and lips.

Begin by prepping the skin with a tinted moisturizer. Cover spots with a concealer by using your ring finger to lightly dot over areas that need it. Dust an oil-free powder over the concealer to help it set and minimize shine. Define your eyes by lining your lids with kohl and slightly smudge it using your fingertip. A metallic colored eye shadow dusted from the lashline to the crease of the eyes can add depth. If your undereye area is dark from lack of sleep, sweep a light-colored shimmer near the upper lashline to make the eyes look more alive and to draw attention away from your eye bags. Apply bronzer lightly across your forehead and under your cheekbones for a sun-kissed glow. Enhance your pout with a deep-colored lipstick or gloss. This entire routine shouldn't take you more than five minutes.

Beauty emergency no. 2: A lunchtime workout pumped up your energy level but deflated your look.

Quick fix: Post-exercise, a cleansing wash and oil-blotting paper can remove excess oils from the face. Follow up with a five-minute makeup routine.

Skip the foundation, a workout can give the skin a healthy flush that no beauty product can reproduce. Spot-correct imperfections using a concealer. Tame eyebrows with a clear mascara gel. Apply a peach-colored cream blush on the cheeks for a dewy radiance. A lot of the new cream blushes can double as lip color so go ahead and dab some on your lips. Finish off with super-shiny gloss. Multitasking beauty addicts should arm their cosmetic loot with color palettes and three-in-one products to help lighten your load.

Beauty emergency no. 3: You're headed for a late-afternoon meeting and you need to look like you're on top of your game.

Quick fix: Your makeup's probably gone AWOL by now, but a trip to the nearest bathroom can give you enough time for a speedy touch-up.

Blot your face with oil-blotting paper (your face tends to get oily in the afternoon). Using a makeup sponge, blend in foundation that has creased during the day. Dab on undereye concealer in a yellow-based color . Dust translucent powder all over the face to set the makeup. Add a little blush to the cheeks and swipe on colored gloss to seal the deal.

Beauty emergency no. 4: You're headed to a party right after you get off work and you need to look fresh and absolutely drop-dead gorgeous!

Quick fix: A cleansing wash and great evening makeup colors can work wonders on your face.

Wash your face with a cleanser. This is a must because your face has accumulated dirt and oil throughout the day. A clean base is important. If you're way in a hurry, use makeup-remover towelettes for a quicker way to clean your face. Dab on eye cream before applying concealer to avoid caking as the night wears on. Groom your brows with a clear mascara gel. Line the eyes with a black liquid eyeliner. Fix mistakes with cotton swabs. Brush a jewel-toned eye shadow on the lids. It may seem heavy but when applied correctly and with a light hand, it can enhance dark brown eyes beautifully. Curl your lashes and apply two coats of volumizing mascara. If you're more adventurous with makeup, try applying false eyelashes on the outer corners of your eyes for extra oomph. Dust shimmer on your cheeks over your blush. Balance dramatic eyes with a neutral lip. Try dotting your lips with concealer and topping it off with a super-shiny lip gloss. The results? Nothing short of miraculous.

STYLING GISELLE GO
PHOTOGRAPHY PAOLO PINEDA
MAKEUP BARBI CHAN
MODEL MIKA LAGDAMEO
CLOTHES ILAYA

AXN
Time
AVAILABLE AT SM DEPT. STORES
active lifestyle

Quick fixes for Christmas

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SWIMMING THROUGH A SEA of Barbie Dolls and Tonka Trucks as I was shopping for my godchildren, nephews and nieces, I just had to pause as my legs started hurting. I looked down and the strappy sandals that looked so sexy earlier looked as if they were bursting nets, encasing really fat hams which were originally my feet. My legs had also started to swell, evident in my ankles which seemed to have disappeared and calves which appeared to have increased a third in size.

Like most women, I retain water from the waist down when I have been on my feet the whole day—in this case, finishing off my Christmas shopping.

I headed to the cosmetics counter and road-tested leg gels that would rev up my circulation, take away the discomfort, shrink my legs and feet back to original size, or at least minimize them so I could fix this problem the next time it occurs.

The best ones I found were: Phytomer Soothing Leg Gel, which is the coldest of the trio; Estee Lauder Body Performance Legs (P1,850); Biorica Well Being Leg Spray, which contains leech saliva (Hirudin) to enhance micro-circulation and perfect for airplanes, too, as it can be sprayed over stockings and still offer relief; and Bioscreen Rejuvenating Tired Legs Gel with Gingko Biloba, the active ingredient that revs up circulation.

Common factors of the best treatments are: 1. They are non-greasy; 2. Should be applied/sprayed from ankles, then massaged up till thighs to encourage blood flow upwards so water won't pool around calves and ankles; 3. May result in frequent urination as they have a diuretic effect; and 4. Would make a great gift for women who tend to swell on their bottom half. They will be using this at least a week every month for PMS.

Bioscreen is available at Beauty Bar, Biorica at Essenses and Estee Lauder and Phytomer at the Rustan's cosmetics floor.

Multitask cleansers

Who has time for an extensive skin care regimen these days? I spotted another interesting option for a Christmas gift in these multitasking face cleansers. They come in the form and texture of powdered detergent a la Tide and they cleanse, exfoliate and whiten the skin.

Dermalogica's Daily Microfoliant (P2,500 for 74 g) smells like fresh oranges and is meant to be used after washing your face with a cleanser suitable for your skin type, but I find that first thing in the morning I can use this straight on my makeup-free and relatively clean skin. This is the best choice for those with sensitive skin wanting to whiten without irritation.

Sekki Sei White Powder Wash (P1,250 for 100 g) has a clean floral herbal scent that can be used in the evening after one removes dirt and makeup with Sekki Sei Oil.

One should cleanse first just to make sure there is no oily residue left and ensure one has a clean face in the morning. This is the most instant in visible whitening of the three, true to Japanese tradition.

The Body Shop's Moisture White Cleansing Powder (P695 for 50 g), which smells like yummy wheat cereal, is meant to be used as a face cleanser. Dermalogica and Sekki Sei are available at Essenses. All three leave you feeling and looking clean and refreshed without the tight and dry feeling.

Dietary supplement

Slacking off on the workout routine this season? Who isn't? To maintain my body skin's firmness I have been drinking a combination of 100 mg DMAE, 100 mg Alpha Lipoic Acid and 500 mg Vitamin C, as recommended by skin guru, Dr. Nicholas Perricone.

I get my supply from Health Express, which also sells Skin Care Factors where all the requirements are incorporated in one capsule according to Perricone's recommended dose.

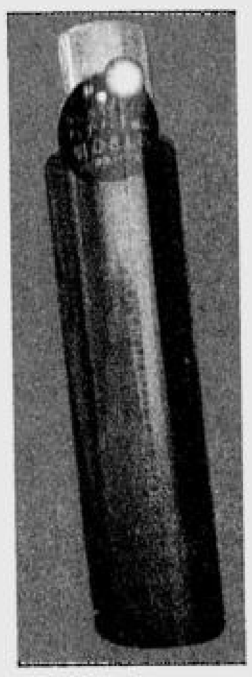
I also have discovered two super products. Belo MD lotion (about P1,155, VAT included) firms and whitens without being greasy and can be used all over from the neck down without causing skin breakouts.

Kose's Junkisui Proportional Creator (P945) comes in mousse form and the bubbles make popping sounds as it is spread over the affected area. Almost instantly the area contracts and won't jiggle, as if an invisible vice is there holding everything in and up.

I apply on my thighs, arms or stomach. It inhibits the maturing of precursor cells into full-blown fat cells while stimulating our body's lipase, an enzyme that promotes fat degradation to consume and burn free fatty acids as energy.

Belo MD lotion is available at any Belo Medical clinic (tel. 8442939). Kose Junkisui is available at Essenses.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



BODY firming aid—Belo MD Lotion and Junkisui Mousse

DEFINING GREAT LIFESTYLE

For almost thirty years, Blims Fine Furniture has been providing a wide array of items for one's home. From simple accents to luxuries sofas and beds, Blims has an item to suit one's personality or motif.

Blims' aggressive and creative innovations constantly provide its customers great choices on each of their showroom visit.

Planning to furnish your brand new place, or a total home/room makeover? Blims presents its furniture collection, that can let you freely bring out the best in your own sanctuary.

FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS

The Dusit collection is inspired with a minimalist modern design to create a simple yet very elegant look for your own home. Its Zen-like type furniture pieces in Wenge Ash Veneer brings life to one's space, even with just very minimal accents.

Your room would look great with the Dusit platform bed. Its low floor clearance bed design makes you feel that you are in a cozy Japanese home. Worried that it can't fit your space? The Dusit platform bed is available in both king (180cm x 190cm) and queen (50 cm x 190cm) sizes.

Matching the Dusit platform bed, for your room, can be the Dusit 4-Drawer chest - for your personal things, clothes or whatever. You may also have the Dusit Side Table for your clock, books, phone, or anything you want to have any time even while you sleep.

Your home entertainment system would be great on the Dusit Low entertainment table. This table is specially designed for that living or bedroom viewing pleasure.

Having friends over? The Dusit Cocktail Table and the Dusit Console Table can truly make you and your friends a great bottle of wine or spur-out great conversations.

FOR EVERYTHING

Great dining pleasure over a scrumptious home cooked meal is nice over a comfortable dining set. Over and above your china pieces and silverware, you would need to have a dining table that can gather everyone you want to share your meal with. The Cameron Dining Set for eight would be perfect for these kind of moments. It includes One (1) Dining Table [900 cm x 1500 cm] two (2) Armchairs and Six (6) Side Chairs. The wood finish is in Cigar/Ash Veneer, creating a very elegant look for your dining area. The cushion fabric is made out of Micro Fiber, Natural in color.

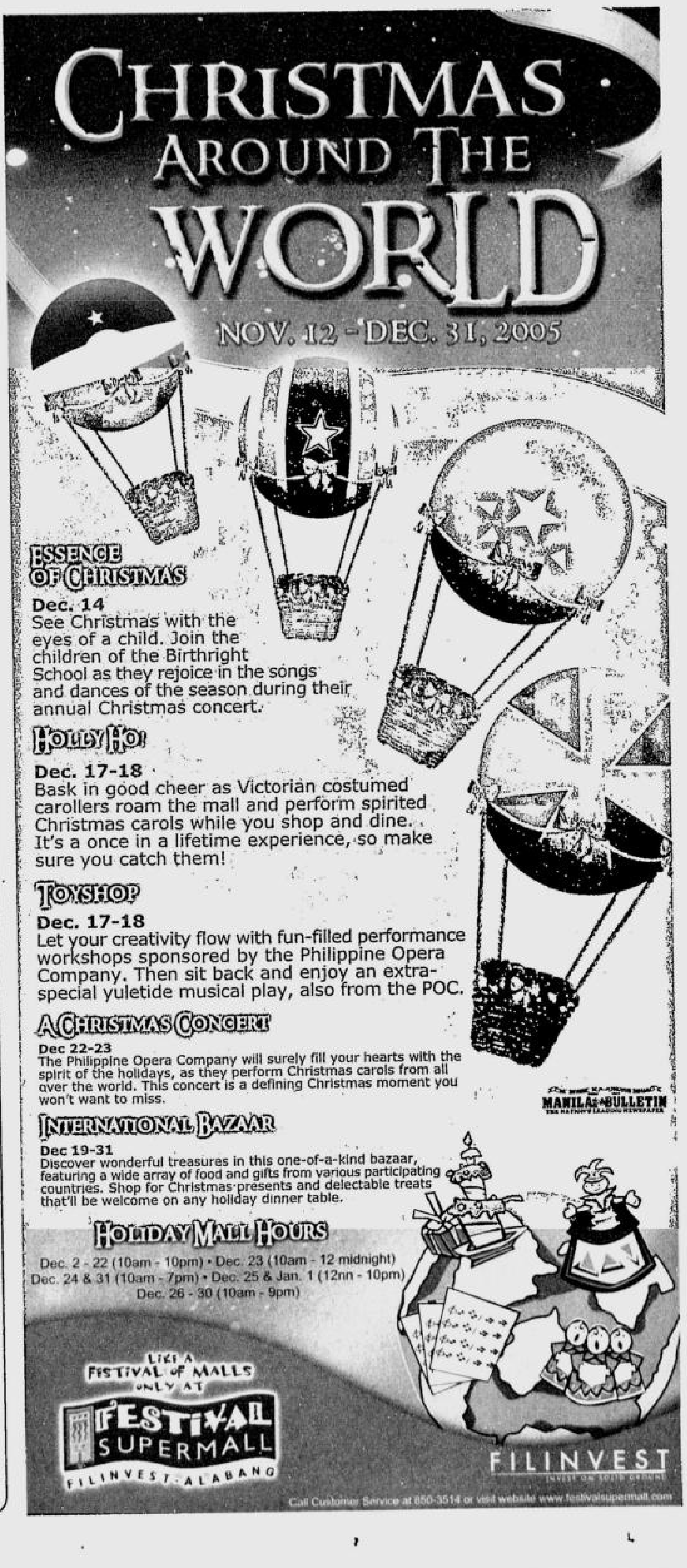
Wherever you place it in your home, the Cameron 4-drawer chestnut can bring out the best in any room. Its functional design can make you store things neatly and properly.

Small offices at home are common nowadays. Do not just use your dining table or sit on the floor while you are working. Bring out those great ideas while working on the Cameron Writing Desk. But do not limit yourself to just writing on this desk. You may also place your computer or fax machine to easily access everything you need for your office work.

FOR EVERYONE

The Dusit, Cameron and other furniture collections are all available at any Blims Fine Furniture stores. Feel free to mix and match any items from our various collections to create a unique look and feel at your home. Visit any of its branches located at Alabang Town Center, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino, Ayala Center Cebu, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Place Galleria, Glorietta 2, Greenbelt 1, Greenhills Lifestyle Center, Ortigas Home Depot, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Market! Market!, SM Southmall, and opening soon Alabang Westgate Home Depot branch.

ADVT.



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
NOV. 12 - DEC. 31, 2005

ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS
Dec. 14
See Christmas with the eyes of a child. Join the children of the Birthright School as they rejoice in the songs and dances of the season during their annual Christmas concert.

HOLLY HO!
Dec. 17-18
Bask in good cheer as Victorian costumed carollers roam the mall and perform spirited Christmas carols while you shop and dine. It's a once in a lifetime experience, so make sure you catch them!

TOYSHOP
Dec. 17-18
Let your creativity flow with fun-filled performance workshops sponsored by the Philippine Opera Company. Then sit back and enjoy an extra-special yuletide musical play, also from the POC.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Dec 22-23
The Philippine Opera Company will surely fill your hearts with the spirit of the holidays, as they perform Christmas carols from all over the world. This concert is a defining Christmas moment you won't want to miss.

INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR
Dec 19-31
Discover wonderful treasures in this one-of-a-kind bazaar, featuring a wide array of food and gifts from various participating countries. Shop for Christmas presents and delectable treats that'll be welcome on any holiday dinner table.

HOLIDAY MALL HOURS
Dec. 2 - 22 (10am - 10pm) • Dec. 23 (10am - 12 midnight)
Dec. 24 & 31 (10am - 7pm) • Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 (12nn - 10pm)
Dec. 26 - 30 (10am - 9pm)

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MAKEUP palette

PATRICK Rosas at work

ARTIST sticking fals

MODELS waiting for their cue

Orientallure

Patrick Rosas and his team weave magic

FINISHED product

IT WAS A MAGICAL EVENT OF HAIR and makeup. It felt like I was at the backstage of New York or London fashion week. This time, Patrick Rosas and his team outdid themselves. I felt so privileged to observe what was going on and seeing the girls being transformed from models into Japanese theater actors. It was such an exciting place to be, and I was full of pride for what the hair-and-makeup team of Patrick was doing. This was going to be a show like no other.

They had pegs taped on a board: "Turandot," "Madame Butterfly," "Carmen" and "Quian Ying." The girls for "Carmen" had dramatic black smoky eye-shadow, and those for "Madame Butterfly," red smeared eye shadow and bright-red lipstick. Their hair was an art form on its own. Scalped hair extensions were pinned to the girls' heads.

Model behavior

Curiosity struck so I went around asking models what they usually brought to a show. I figured models are into skin care (or at least should be). With all the bombardment of makeup put on their faces when working, they must have brought some products along with them for their personal use.

Ana Lloren brought along a book, "The Millionaire Next Door," Nivea body oil, Shu Uemura cleansing oil and makeup removing wipes.

Izza Gonzales brought her toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. She told me she prefers removing her makeup at home where she can take her time and be gentle on her skin. Anyway, after the show she is too tired to even party so she ends up jetting back home.

Annette Coronel said she just brings fruits and tissue. That's it. Her main concern during a show is not to feel bloated so she just brings her own food—fruits!

Easel Dawn brings little samples of moisturizer, makeup remover and perfume. She doesn't like having to tag a heavy bag around so she brings her little kit, which, she says, is handy but practical.

Some models, like Joann Bitagcol, don't bring a single beauty product. In fact, Joann, who is now also a photographer, brought her camera and was shooting the action backstage.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Patrick's insight

A few days after the show, I called Patrick and found out he had worked with the makeup concept for four months with Inno Sotto. I asked him how he comes up with ideas for fashion shows and he said, "I learn my discipline through the designer and women I work with. It's a balancing act."

Like the true artist that he is, Patrick knows that without balance, makeup won't be able to enhance, which is the essence of the whole thing.

Since Patrick has worked with our top designers such as Inno Sotto, Auggie Cordero, Rajo Laurel, Dennis Lustico, Pepito Albert, Jojie Lloren and the late Joe Salazar, he said that his makeup usually evolves depending on the designers' ideas. "It's all about collaboration."

I asked him if the work he did in "Beloved" was wearable and he said, "Of course!" He told me that makeup is dependent on application. If it is applied at a minimum, then you get a very beautiful Asian look.

He explained that, of course, in shows makeup is exaggerated so it won't be washed out by strong lights. It is also such to achieve a dramatic effect.

I also asked him what kind of look he foresees in the future. "Hollywood is still the strong influence," he replied.

Patrick gets his inspiration from beauties like Greta Garbo, Joanne Dipri, and Grace Kelly when working on his craft. He is one of the favorite makeup artists of people in high society, and I asked him why he thinks this is so.

"Women want to be beautiful. And that's what I keep in mind when working on people."

Photography by Chilo Vecina
Styled by Ria Francisco-Prieto

DRAMAT
eye shad

Magnolia
Gold
EDAM CHEESE BALL
To:
From:
PASTEURIZED PROCESSED CHEESE FOOD

All you need to do is write a special name.

Now; exquisitely-tasting Magnolia Gold Edam Cheese Ball comes in elegant gold boxes. Definitely an excellent gift this Christmas.
All you need to think about are the names of the people who are special enough to receive one from you.

LIFESTYLE

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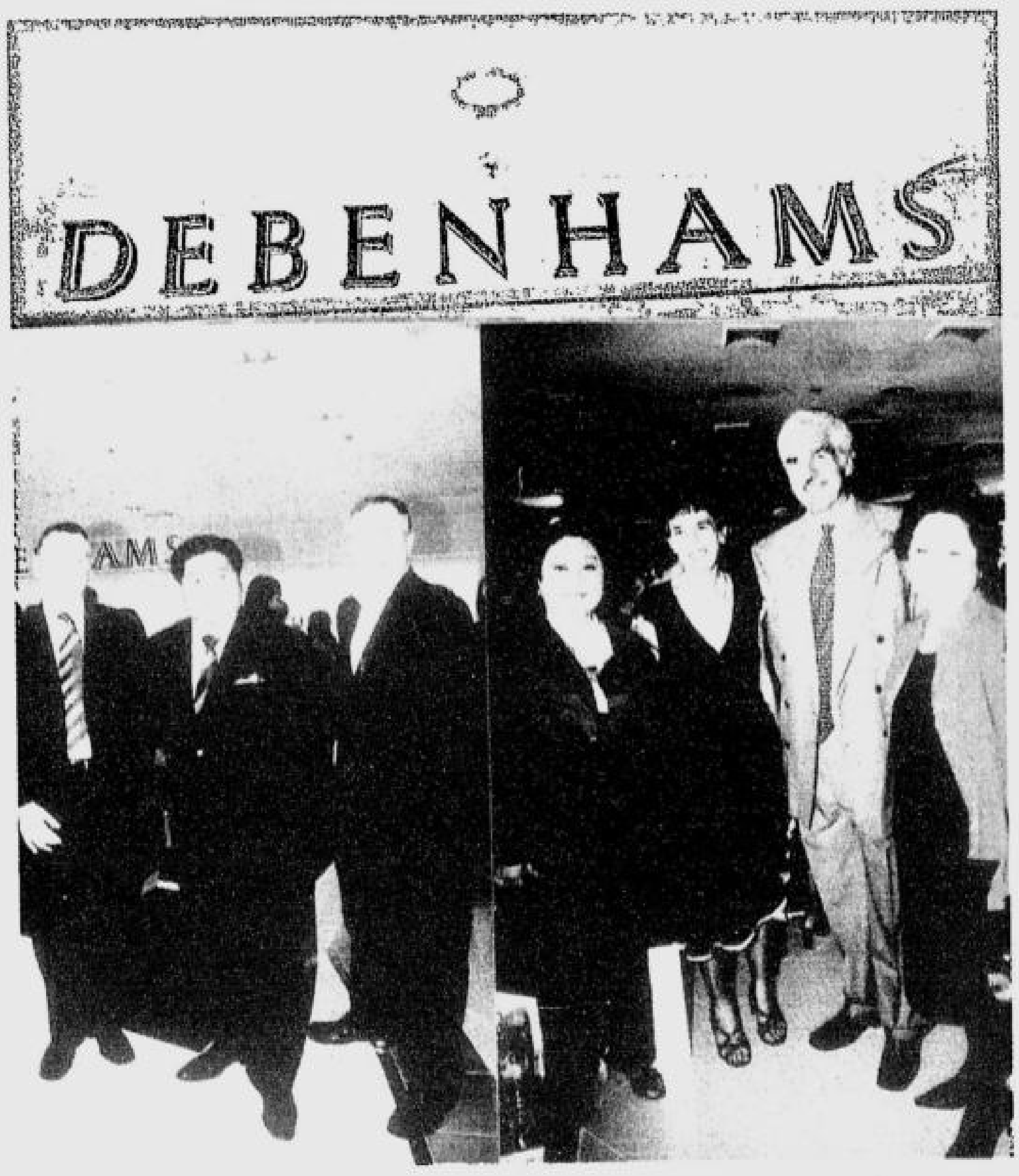
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

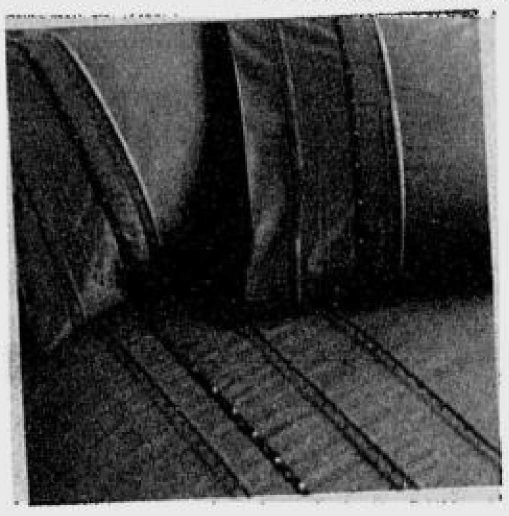
DRESSING-UP one and all for Christmas /H2

Top UK retail house comes a-calling

Debenhams, known for its natty in-house fashion brands while carrying the exclusive lines of other style houses, represents Cool Brittania in Hot Manila



AT FORMAL launch of Debenhams, a one-stop shopping place for British branded men, women and children's fashion plus soft home furnishing were Rustan's Specialty Concepts Inc. EVP Anton Huang with Debenhams international operations controller Peter King and international director Francis McAuley; Stores Specialists Inc. president Nedy Tantoco, Ambassador Peter Beckingham of United Kingdom, Jill Beckingham and Lovely Romulo.



wash me pillow
wash me quilt
wash me quilt

DEBENHAMS, the 100-year-old British fashion and retail powerhouse, is now in Manila.

Situated at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Debenhams Manila trades in approximately 17,000 square feet of selling space and features women's, men's and children's fashion, accessories and lingerie, as well as selected soft home furnishings.

Debenhams, whose exclusive Philippine franchise is held by Stores Specialists Inc., is one of the most respected retailers in the UK and is renowned for its successful portfolio of exclusive in-house and international brands.

It gained acclaim for its pioneering launch of Designers at Debenhams a decade ago.

Manila shoppers can enjoy the full range of Designers at Debenhams' exclusive collections by leading designers such as J by Jasper Conran, Rocha.John Rocha, Butterfly by Matthew Williamson, Star by Julien MacDonald and Antoni + Alison.

Also to delight local shoppers are the new arrivals, such as Betty Jackson.Black (a stylish collection of classic women's wear with a directional edge) and St. George by Duffer (skateboard and urban-street inspired boyswear).

The lingerie department offers a boutique atmosphere, with exclusive products from Reger by Janet Reger, Caprice and Presence.

Debenhams' chief executive, Rob Templeman, welcomed the opening of Debenhams in Manila.

"We believe that Debenhams offers a strong brand in a contemporary shopping environment which we are confident will excite local shoppers," Templeman said.

Francis McAuley, Debenhams international director, agreed:

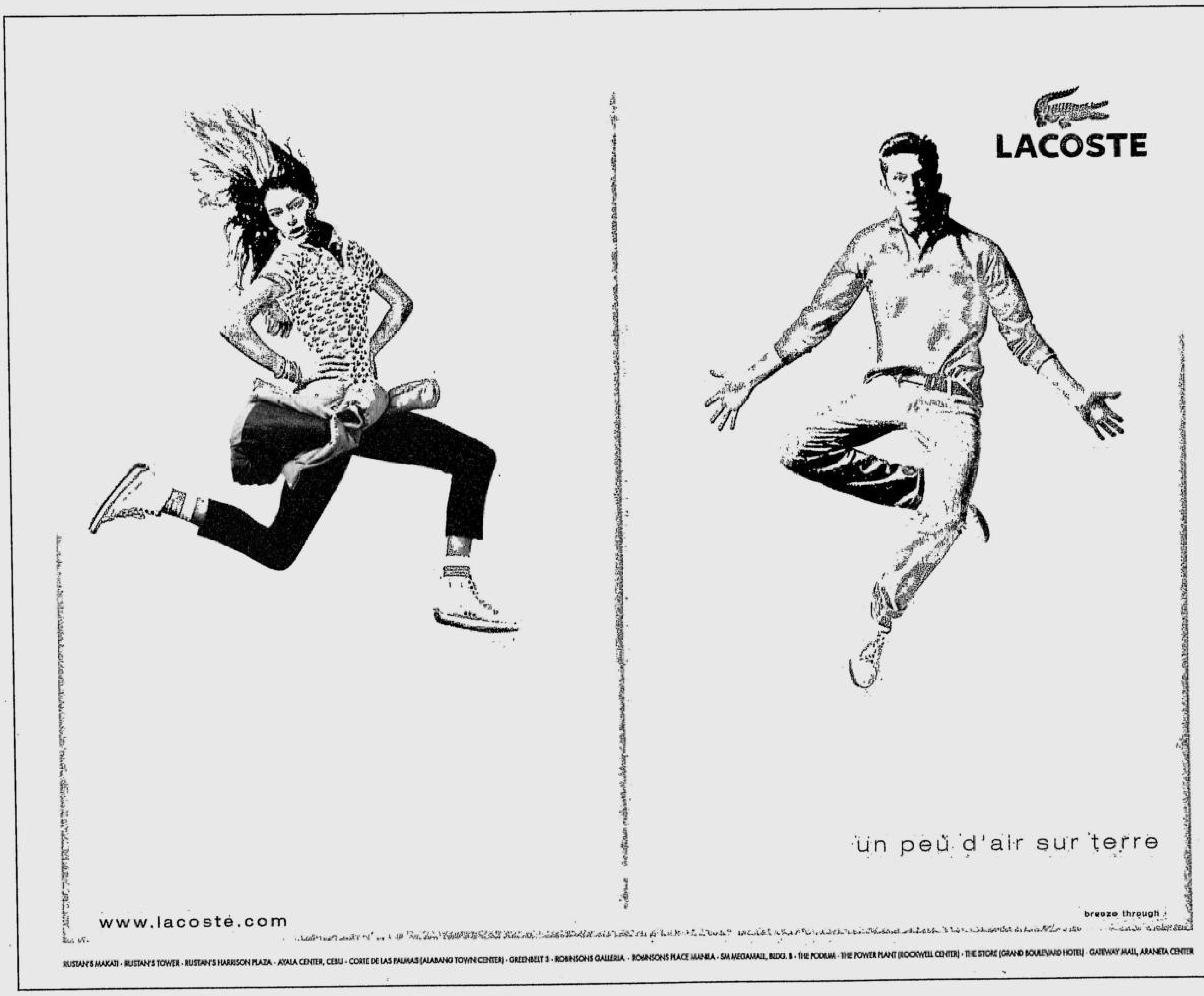
"The Philippines is the perfect location for our latest international store, and we are really looking forward to welcoming customers through the doors."

Since opening its first store in 1905 in London's Wigmore Street, Debenhams has become a world-class retailer of clothing, fashion accessories, cosmetics and household goods, with a significantly higher proportion of private label brands than any other premium retail chain in the world.

An impressive collection of over 50 successful brands of its own includes Red Herring (casual directional clothing for men, women and children), Pineapple (a fun range of exclusive sports/loungewear for women and girls), and Maine New England (performance-enhanced clothing for the family such as sportswear), as well as Casual Club, J Taylor, Debut, Babbleboom (babywear and younger kidswear), and Tigerlily (girlswear).

Debenhams also carries exclusive homeware, such as towels and bed linen.

The Manila shop, located at L3 of the Shangri-La Plaza mall, Mandaluyong City, is the 24th outside of England.


LACOSTE

un peu d'air sur terre

www.lacoste.com

breeze through

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA · AYALA CENTER, CEBU · CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT 3 · ROBINSONS GALLERIA · ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA · SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE PODIUM · THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · THE STORE (GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER

ON ANGELA: Red Herring corset in old rose, lace top, brown pants, braided belt, pearl necklace, cameo pendant and pearl drop earrings. On Mika: Tigerlily pink smart tweed dress

ON ANGELA: Red Herring sequin double-layer vest, Butterfly by Matthew Williamson Indian embellished skirt and batwing cardigan. On baby Monique: Babbleboom pink strappy crossover occasion dress. On Mika: Antoni + Alison white tutu elephant top, Tigerlily pink tiered skirt

WITH 19 popular designers to dress up Mom, Dad, the teeners, the toddlers and the baby, British fashion and lifestyle brand Debenhams is sure to keep the family festooned in holiday glory from Christmas Day till the tree comes down and the halls are no longer decked in boughs of holly. From warm jumpers and gilets (that's sweaters and vests to you and me) to ward off the chill to shimmery frocks that beckon party cheer, Debenhams has come to town with its own brand of year-round holiday feel.

Debenhams, exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., is located at L3 of the Shangri-La Plaza mall, Mandaluyong City. —*Cheche Moral*

[illegible]

All i

(ABOVE) ON TESSA: Star by Julien MacDonald printed dress. On baby Athena: [illegible] (Right) On Tessa: Star by Julien MacDonald [illegible] On Athena [illegible]

MARLBOROCLASSICS
Marlboro Classics
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL / POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL CENTER / GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER / SM MEGAMALL B / ALABANG TOWN CENTER / ROBINSONS PLACE, MANILA / FESTIVAL SUPERMALL / RUSTAN'S MAKATI
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All i

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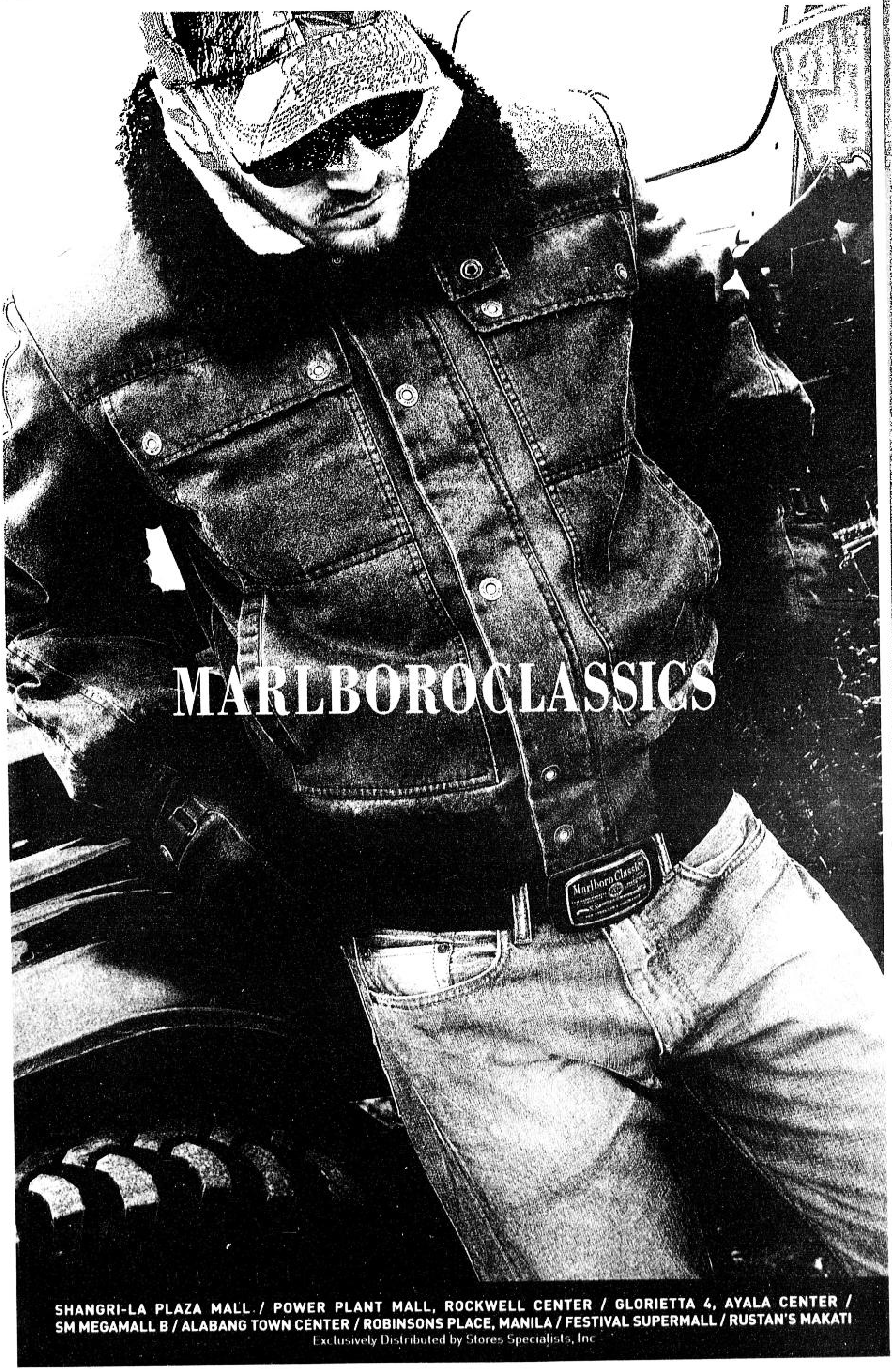

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL / POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL CENTER / GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER / SM MEGAMALL B / ALABANG TOWN CENTER / ROBINSONS PLACE, MANILA / FESTIVAL SUPERMALL / RUSTAN'S MAKATI

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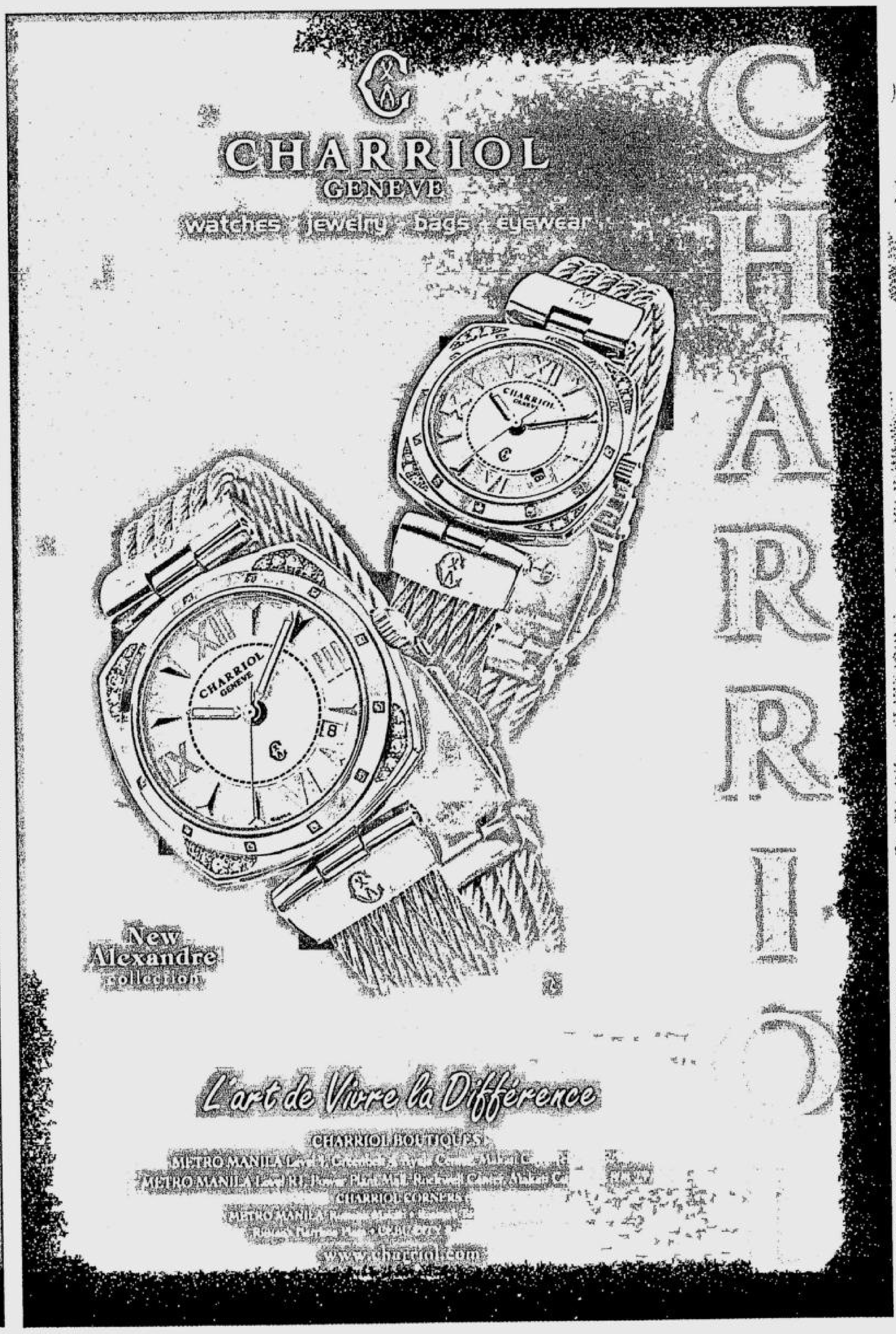
n the family

ALL TOGETHER NOW. On Tessa: Star by Julien MacDonald print baby doll top, Red Herring long, multistrand necklace, Siam & Amy intricate belt and multistrand earrings. On baby Athena: Babbleboom flat pleated and bow occasion dress. On Noey: Red Herring formal black belt, Rocha canvas front pocket denim, Duffer St. George green mock sleeve top. On Noel: Rocha.John Rocha brown stripe shirt and indigo jeans. On Angela: Star by Julien MacDonald beaded cowl neck top and cream lurex kimono shrug. On Mika: Tigerlily occasion dress. On Monique: Little Rocha babycord tiered skirt and glitter print skull tee.

(ABOVE) ON NOEY: Red Herring jumbo cord trousers in dark grey and thick and thin variated stripes shirt. On Noel: Jasper Conran green stripe shirt, John Rocha 6 indigo jeans. (Left) On Noey: Rocha patchwork zip-through sweat and denim appliqued tee, Red Herring boardin' cord trousers. On Noel: St. George by Duffer stripe cotton V-neck knitwear, Rocha.John Rocha stripe, Maine single pleat cord trousers.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METRO MANILA Level R1, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati C [illegible]
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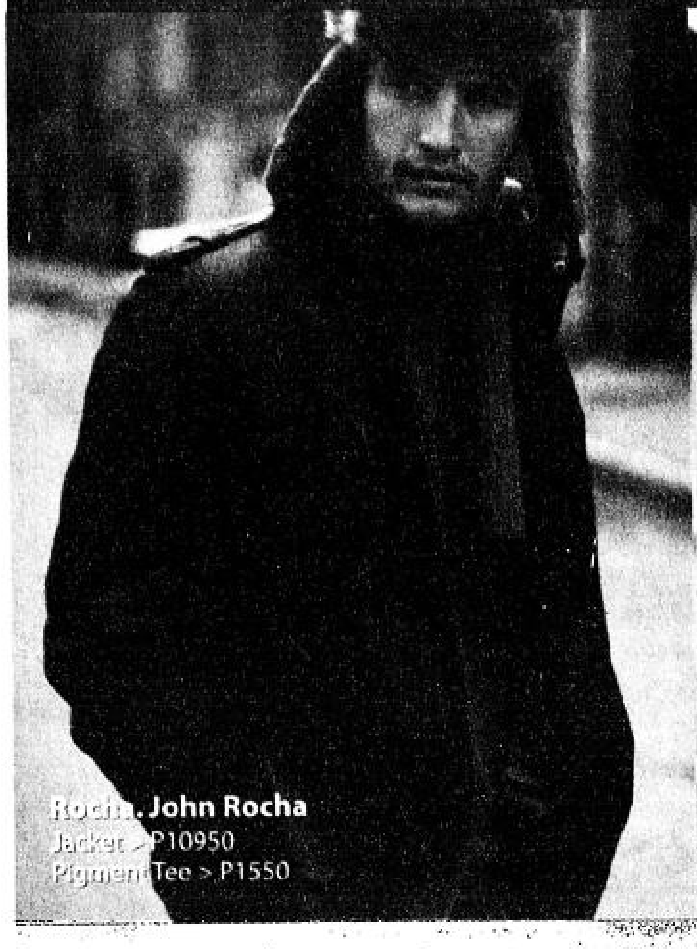
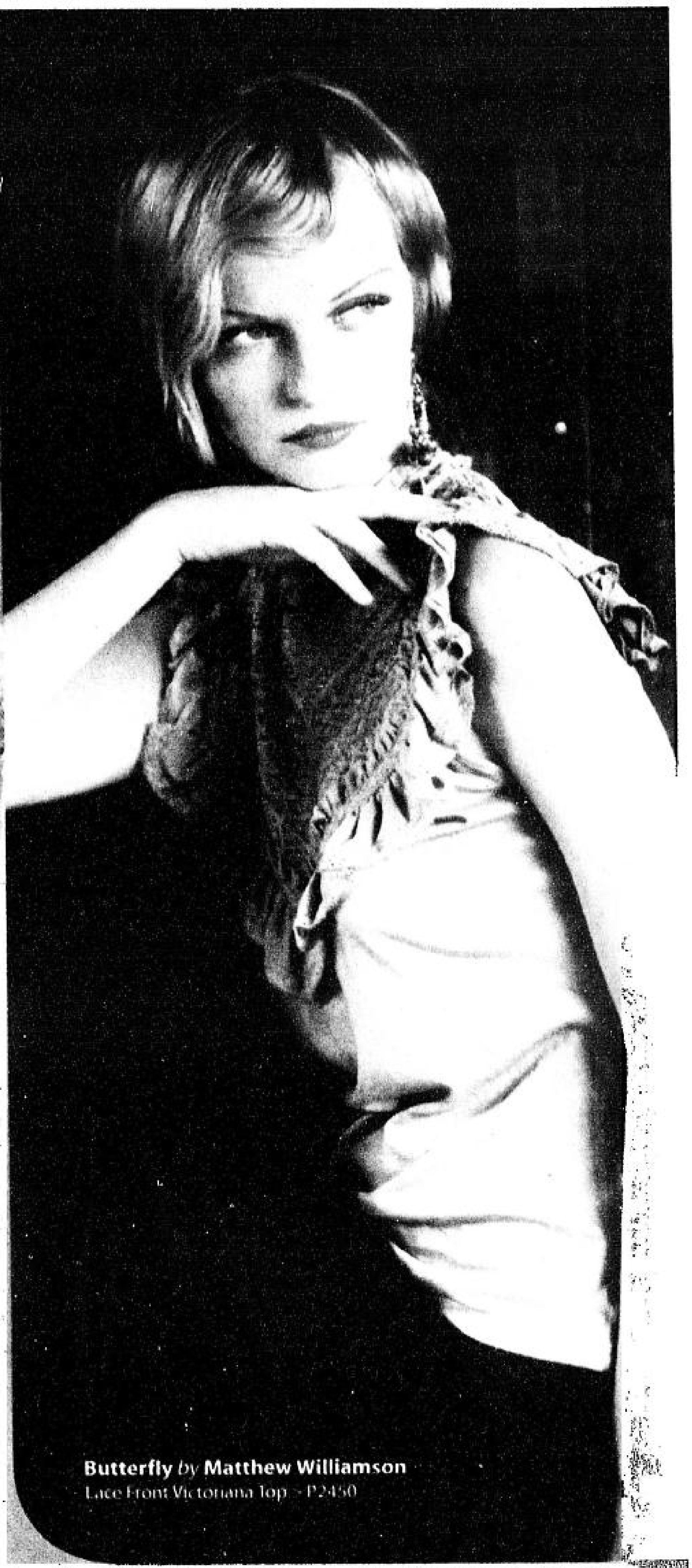
Living In Style



Rocha. John Rocha
Jacket > P10950
Pigment Tee > P1550

Butterfly *by* **Matthew Williamson**
Printed Tunic > P3950
Red Herring
Scarf > P1450



Butterfly *by* **Matthew Williamson**
Lace Front Victoriana Top > P2450

Exclusive collections from Britain's top designers

J

ROCHA.JOHN ROCHA

Antoni + Alison

STAR

BETTY JACKSON BLACK

Elie NY by Elie Tahari

Janet Reger

butterfly MATTHEW WILLIAMSON

St. George by Duffer

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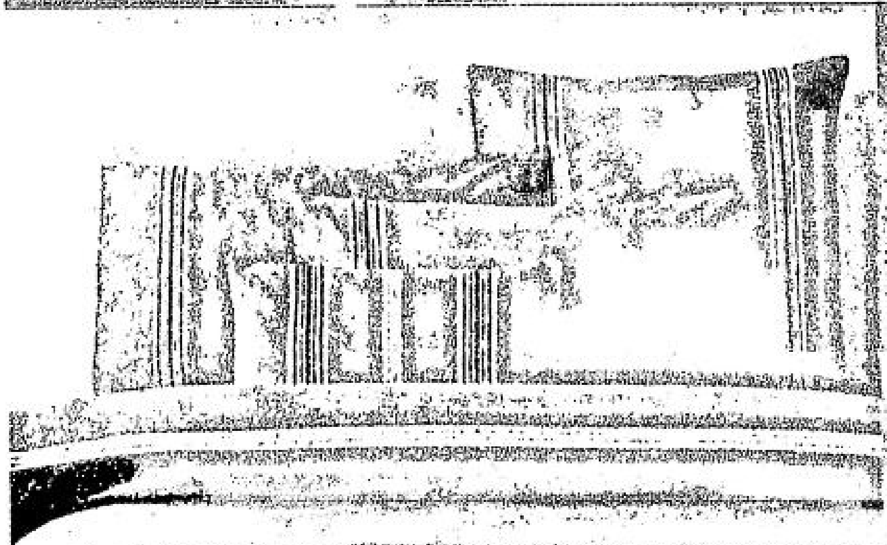
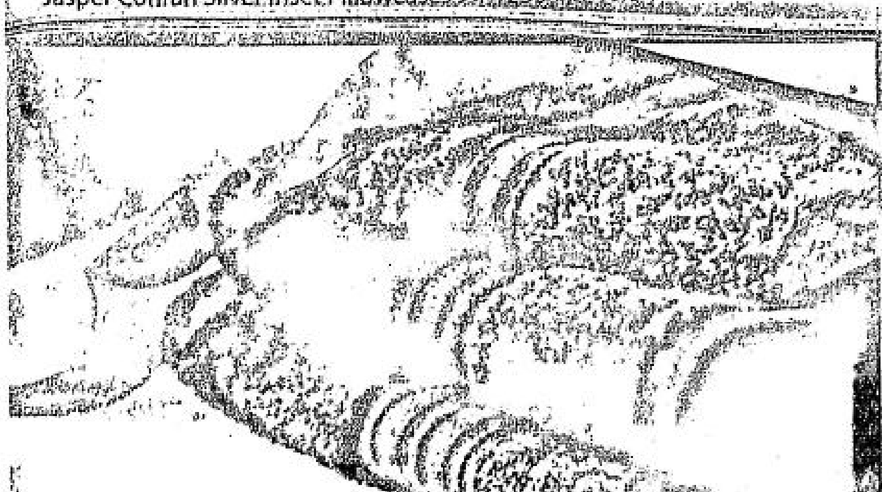
Babbleboom

Tigerlily



Jasper Conran Home
Jasper Conran Silver Inset Duvet Cover (King) > P5950
Jasper Conran Silver Inset Pillowcases > P1250

Junior J *by* **Jasper Conran**
Mock Sleeved Top > P895/P995
Cord Trouser With Denim Trim
> P995 / P1150



Egyptian Cotton Towels
Bath Sheet > P2050
Bath Towel > P1350
Hand Towel > P675
Guest Towel > P375
Face Cloth > P150

Rocha. Little Rocha
Hooded Cardigan And
Baby Cord Dungaree Set
> P2250

St. George *by* **Duffer**
L/S Brown Stripe Shirt > P4950
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'Tis the season to be shopping...

The appeal of Pinoy Christmas

A peek into the tradition and symbol we associate with Christmas

A field of red poinsettias

By Raquel P. Gomez

BETH DELA PAZ, OWNER AND operator of Beauty Blossoms, an ornamental plant shop inside Manila Seedling Bank premises in Quezon City, has already spruced up her store with thousands of poinsettias in preparation for the bulk sale of the "Christmas" plant this season. Literally, Dela Paz' plant shop is already a captivating field of red dwarf poinsettias.

She says the number of poinsettias bought at her store has been increasing daily because of the huge demand for such a plant this season of Christmas. Five mayors already bought boxes of the plant. Hotels and restaurants have been ordering for decoration purposes. Offices in Cebu and Naga have been inquiring about bulk orders. But most people who buy poinsettias, says Dela Paz, are getting the plants as gifts or giveaways.

"Poinsettias have always been known as a Christmas symbol the world over. We, Filipinos, have adapted the practice of getting poinsettias during Christmas from the West. And poinsettias bloom and turn red in December; it's a colorful plant and so its close association with Christmas."

Dela Paz says her staff brings about 1,300 poinsettias from Baguio to Manila every week since November. The beautiful plants sell for P100 to P300 a pot. "This is a seasonal plant, that's why we have so many because of the big demand. Poinsettias are among the most sought after plants this Christmas aside from euphorbia and the money plant. Maybe because of the red color these plants exhibit, which many people associate with a lucky color."

A religious legend

Poinsettias have become a modern-day symbol of the holiday season in many countries around the world. Indeed, they are also known as Christmas Stars. Their scientific name "euphorbia pulcherrima", which translates as "the most beautiful euphorbia," is appropriate.

These plants have long been associated with Christmas in Central America. In Mexico, they figure in a charming religious story of a young poor girl named Pepita, who was walking sadly toward church on Christmas Eve.

She was so poor that she had nothing to offer and was too ashamed to enter the church without a gift of her own to honor Christ's birth.

Her cousin Pedro said consolingly, "Pepita, I'm sure that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes."

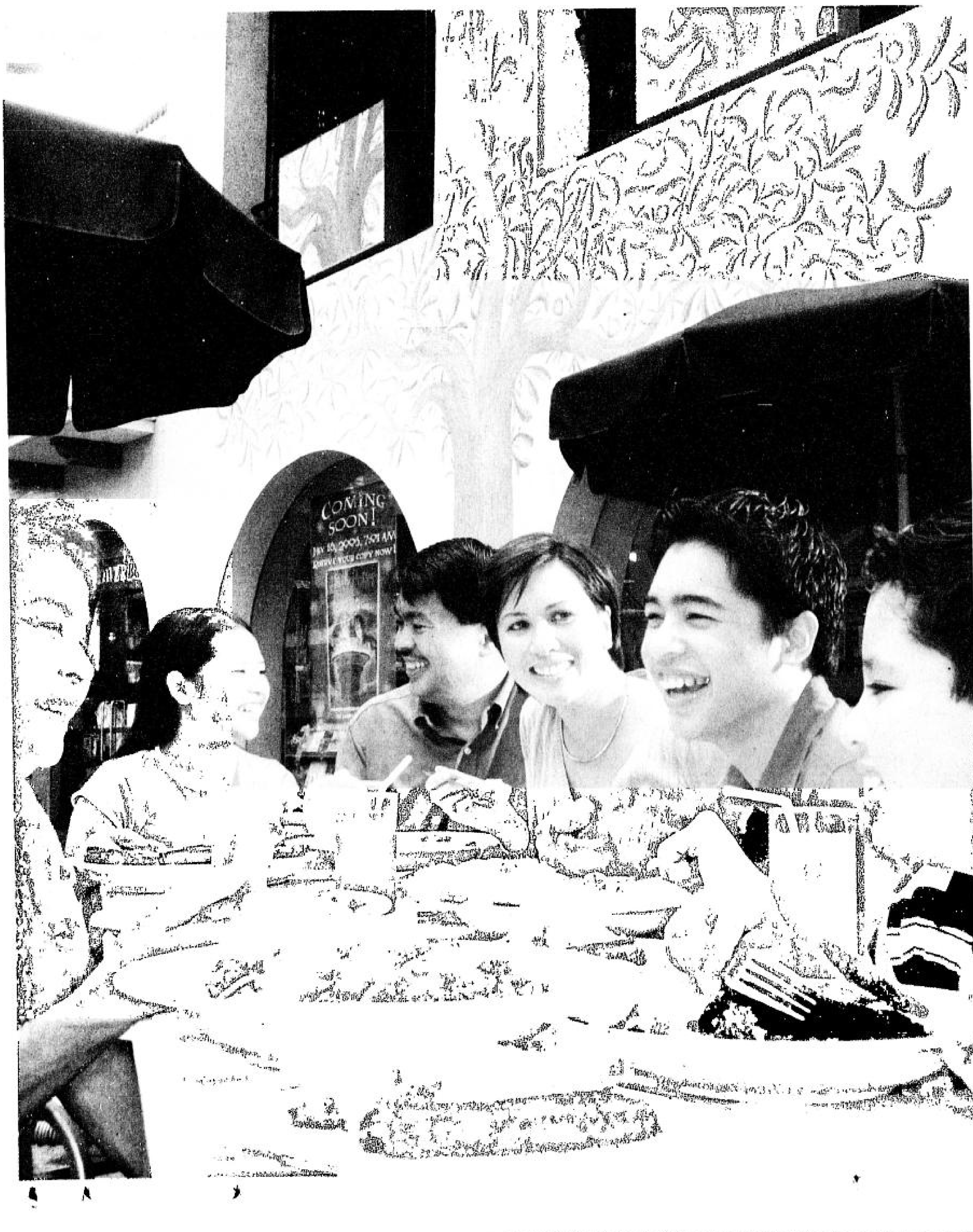
So Pepita gathered a handful of leaves from a common, straggly shrub. She entered the church and humbly set down her bouquet. At that moment, the leaves burst into a brilliant red.

The plant was called "Flor de Nochebuena" or "Flower of the Holy Night." The story tells that since then all wild poinsettias turn to flamboyant colors for Christmas.

Symbol of purity

Poinsettias are native to southern Mexico and Central America. They grew wild in the area around the modern-day cities of Taxco and Cuernavaca. Long before the Spaniards arrived, the Aztecs knew this plant as medicinal and considered it a symbol of purity. They made medicine from its latex and dye from its colored bracts to

A FIELD/16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The magic of Christmas at SM Supermalls

SM SUPERMALLS WILL CELEBRATE "The Magic of Christmas" with spellbinding shopping and amazing activities for the season.

Mallgoers can witness state-of-the-art wizardry of Tom Silver and Jeff Simon from Las Vegas as they combine dance, comedy and costumes in a must-see set of performances. This will take place at SM City San Lazaro on Dec. 16, SM Supercenter Valenzuela on Dec. 17, SM Southmall on Dec. 19, SM City Bicutan on Dec. 21, and SM Megamall on Dec. 23.

Tom Silver, a yoga teacher, dive instructor, and hypnotist will mesmerize the audience by demonstrating the phenomena of hypnosis in an extremely funny way. He uses hypnosis to improve the lives of people everyday. In "Genesis", he demonstrates yoga's mind over body power with his own version of the creation of the first woman.

Jeff, on the other hand, pays tribute to his late grandfather who was also a magician in "The Passing of Time". On a lighter note, Jeff announces that he is still single and searching for that special someone in "A Date with a Magician".

Some of the performance highlights include a "Journey into the Future", wherein they magically appear in the chamber live as robots; and the "Comedy of the Future", wherein audience members are called on stage for a dance showdown.

Other great illusion performances include "Living on the Edge", wherein the two magically exchange places in a futuristic blue cube; the "Amazing Cutting in Half", and "Caged", where Jeff will dazzle audiences as he escapes from the cage in which he is tied.

SM also brings the magic of the silver screen with a series of Metro Manila Film Festival Mall Tours featuring some of the country's top stars. This will take place on Dec. 21 at SM City North Edsa; Dec. 28 at SM City Fairview; and Dec. 30 at SM City Sucat and SM Southmall.

It's easy to get star struck as the country's hottest stars promote their much-awaited movies in a series of mall tours. These include "Kutob" Dec. 16 at SM City Bacoor and Dec. 18 at SM City Manila; and "Enteng Kabisote" on Dec. 19 at SM City Fairview; Dec. 17 at SM City North-Edsa; and Dec. 18 at SM City Bicutan.

The movie magic continues with mall tours of "Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom: Exodus" at SM City San Lazaro on Dec. 23. The stars of "Mulawin", on the other hand, will be at SM City Fairview on Dec. 17 and SM City San Lazaro Dec. 18.

A spectacular fireworks display in the Metro Manila malls will cap the celebrations in schedules running until Dec. 30. This is not to be missed.

Tiendesitas: Pinoy's best everyday!

TIENDESITAS IS PASIG CITY'S newest shopping and family entertainment destination owned by Ortigas & Company, one of the Philippines' most respected names in the real estate and property development industry. It is managed by Greenhills Shopping Center, the country's value shopping mecca. Inaugurated Sept. 26, Tiendesitas is expected to rival the highly successful and world-renowned Chatuchak Market in Bangkok, Thailand.

Located at the corners of Ortigas, Julia Vargas and E. Rodriguez Avenues (C5) in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, Tiendesitas caters primarily to value-conscious foreign and domestic shoppers. It showcases the best the Philippines can offer - native food, fashion wear and accessories, furniture, antiques, handicrafts, personal care and novelty items, pets, plants and other proudly Philippine-made products.

Tiendesitas sits on a 30,000-sqm area within Frontera Verde, an interim 18.5-hectare Ortigas development project. It houses 12 pavilions, also called "villages", which are of Maranao-inspired architecture. Indigenous materials were used in creative ways such as chemically treated cogon grass for the roof; old calesa wheels transformed into chandelier frames to light the restrooms; and *duyan* scattered around to allow short breaks amidst frenzied shopping activities. The result is a stylized and unique Filipino architecture and is a novel interpretation of the conventional *bahay kubo*. The design of the complex also gave attention to the needs of the disabled and elderly.

More than 450 traders, mostly entrepreneurs from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, are offering specialty merchandise from all the regions. Haggling ala-*tiangge* will be the norm as shoppers discover the treasures and pleasures of Philippine-made goods and produce.

Starting at 6 a.m. on weekends, a seafood market brings the freshest catch from the Philippine waters. At night, shoppers can be treated to acoustic and live band performances. There is also an area dedicated to special shows, exhibits, and unique Filipino presentations. Kids and adults can also enjoy riding the *kalesa* which goes around Tiendesitas.

Shopping hours are from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

Oh so ornamental at SM

BRING IN THE HOLIDAY cheer to your home with the most opulent of ornaments from SM.

Gracefully hanging on a tree, creatively fashioned into centerpieces, or elegantly placed in tabletop tableaux, these capture the magic and excitement of the holidays.

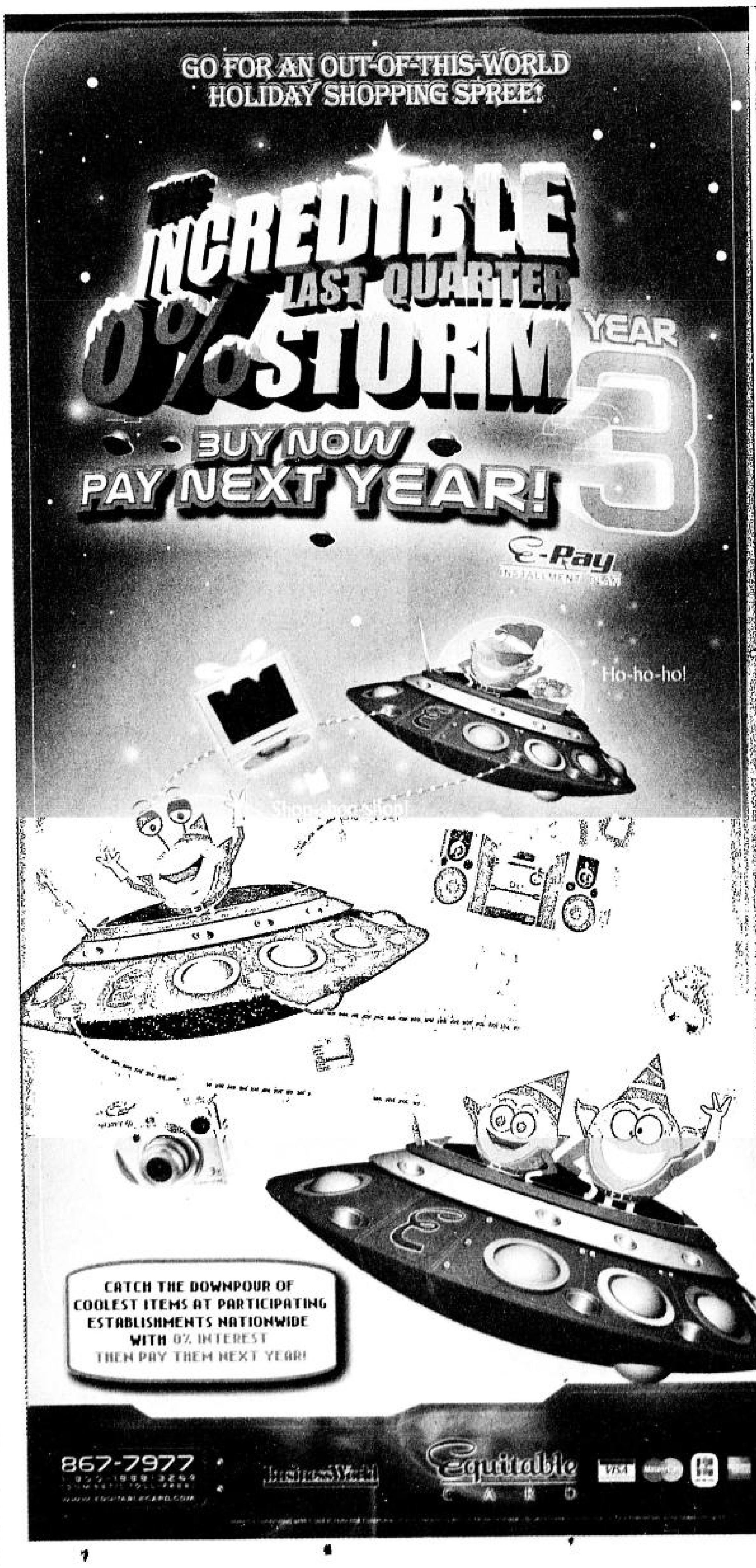
Some are bejeweled with colorful stones... others glitter in glitzy metallics... others are gracefully hung by ribbons and bows. Others have a modern edge - with frosted surfaces, stripes and checks and graphic designs.

These come in a wide array of colors and textures that illuminate your holiday festivities - from traditional red, green, gold and silver to bold and beautiful colors like copper, lilac, blue and pink.

The collection is available at the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

SILVER balls going snowy.

SUGAR coated transparent Christmas ball embossed with three mistletoe.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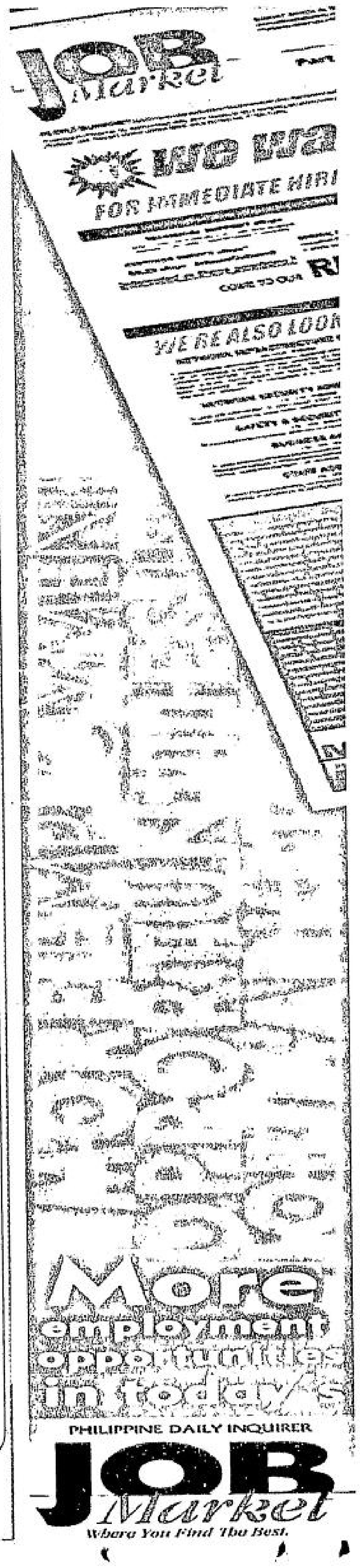

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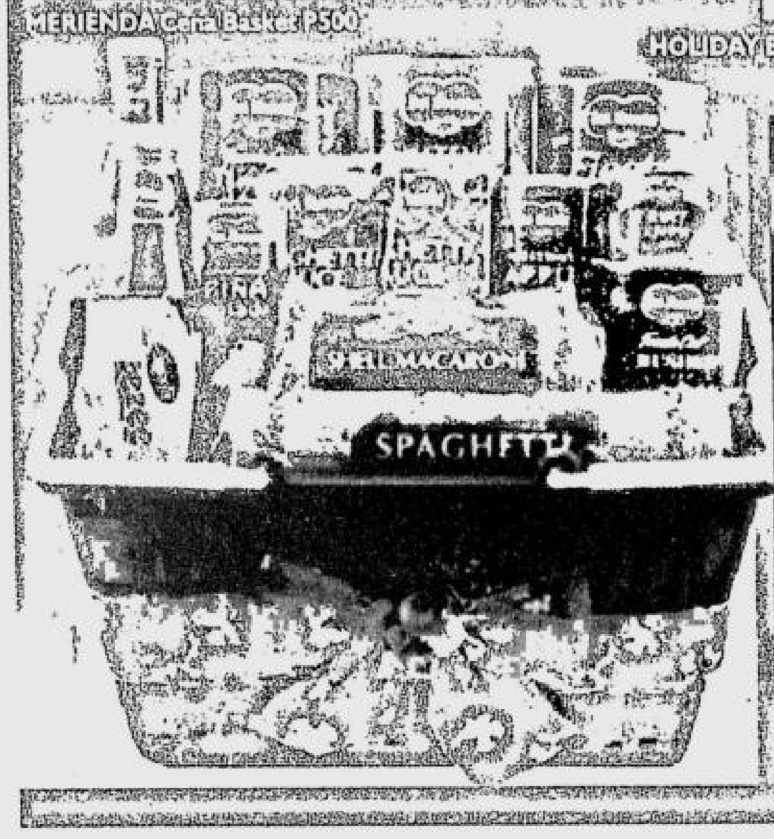
Baskets full of cheers from SM Supermarket

NOCHE Buena Basket P600

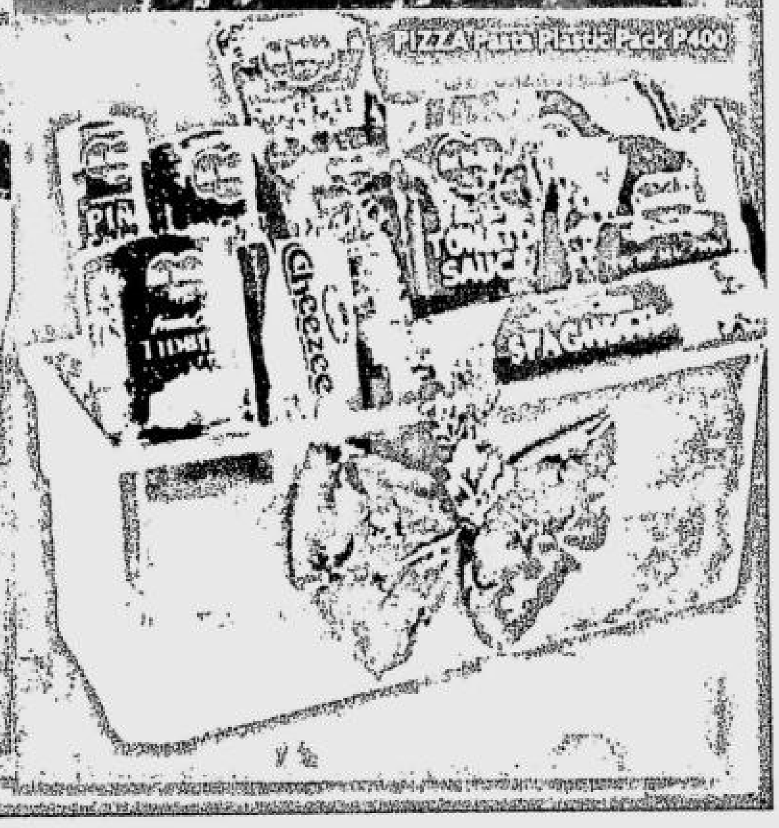
HOLIDAY Basket | P2,500

BOUNTY Basket P200



MERIENDA Cena Basket P500

HOLIDAY BASKET 6 P1,200

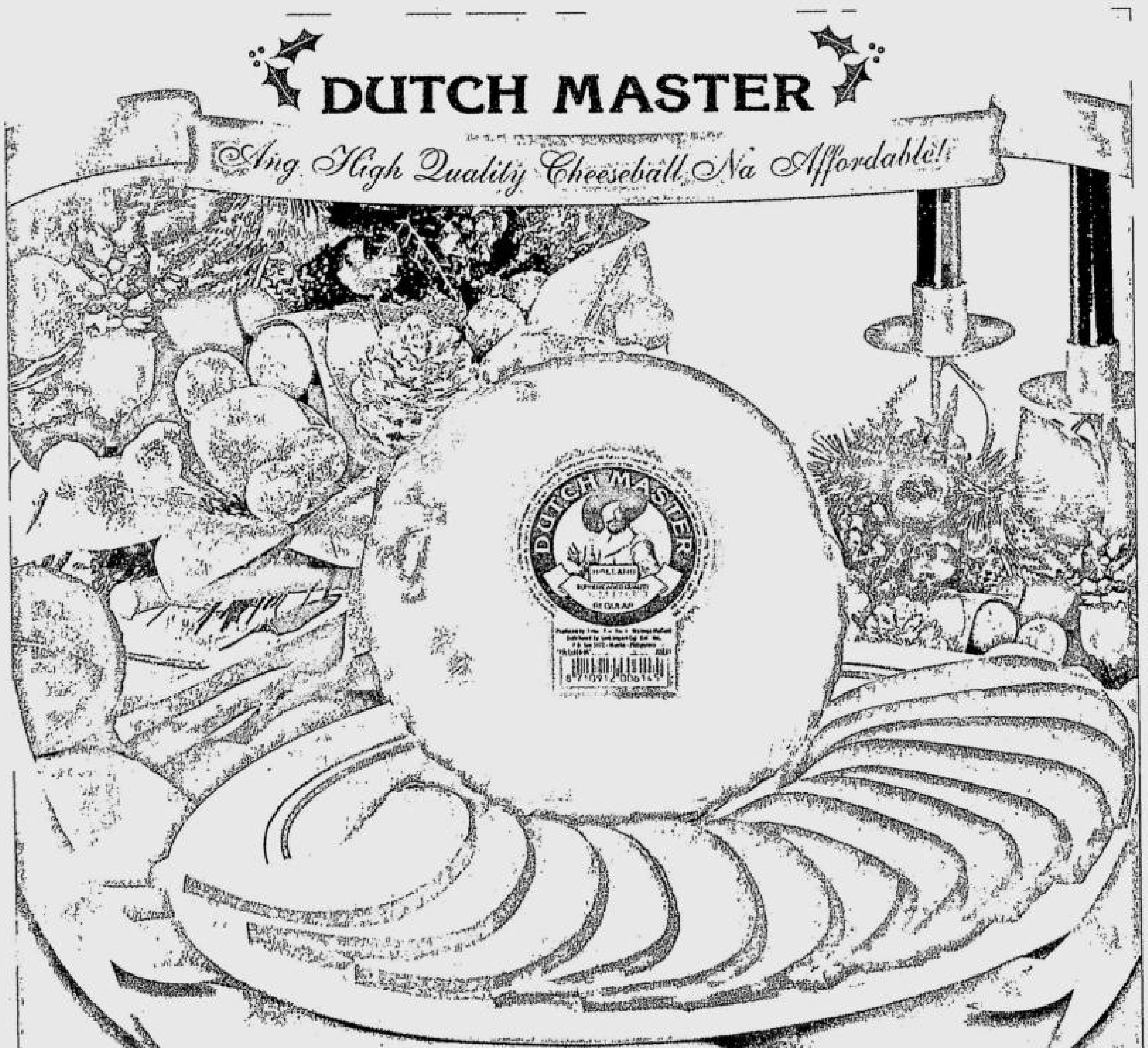


PIZZA Pasta Plastic Pack P400

Through the years, gift baskets loaded with goodies have been a traditional way of spreading holiday cheers. Some things never change, and today, these are still great gift ideas for the season. SM Supermarket has updated the Holiday gift basket concept to bring in the cheers to modern homes. Ranging from P200 to P2,500, these are packed with Christmas treats like ham, chocolates, cheese, wine, and cookies from well-known brands.

There is a basket for everyone-for merienda and snacks, for pizza and pasta lovers, for salad-lites, for Noche Buena feasts. All these are creatively arranged in buckets, baskets, and carts, and trimmed with ribbons, poinsettias, and other ornaments.

Holiday gift baskets are available at all SM Supermarket branches. For inquiries, visit the customer service counter at SM Supermarket, or log on to www.smsupermarket.com.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Dutch Master Edam Cheeseball, sa sarap at sa lasa, panalo ka!

DUTCH MASTER
EDAM CHEESEBALL

we've got all the GIFTS

what's brewing

coffee break

time to dine

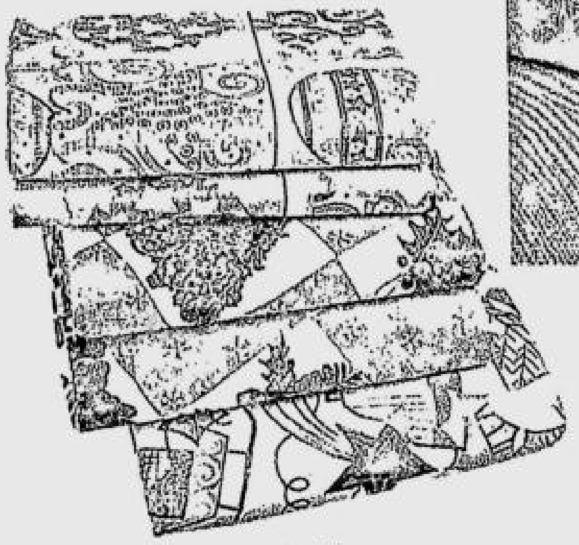
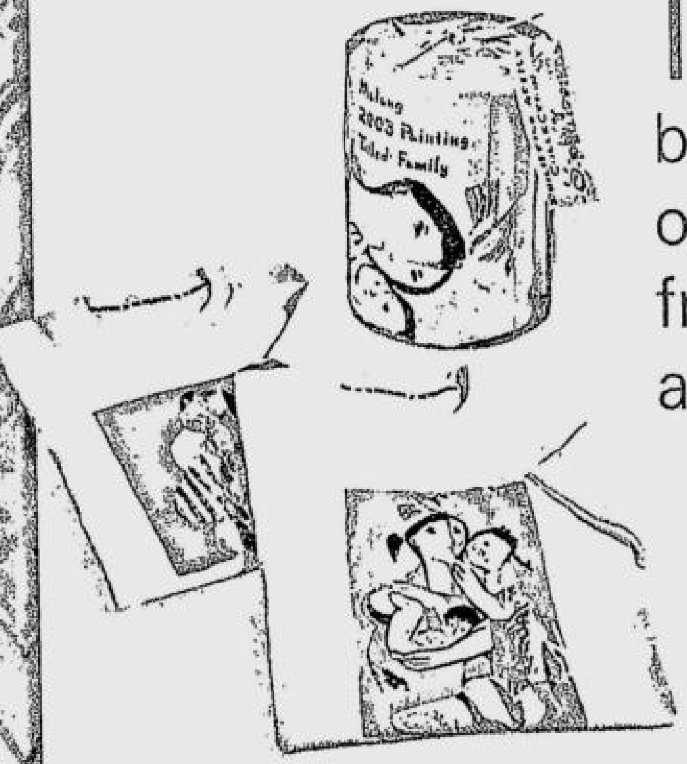


table cover-up

travel mugs

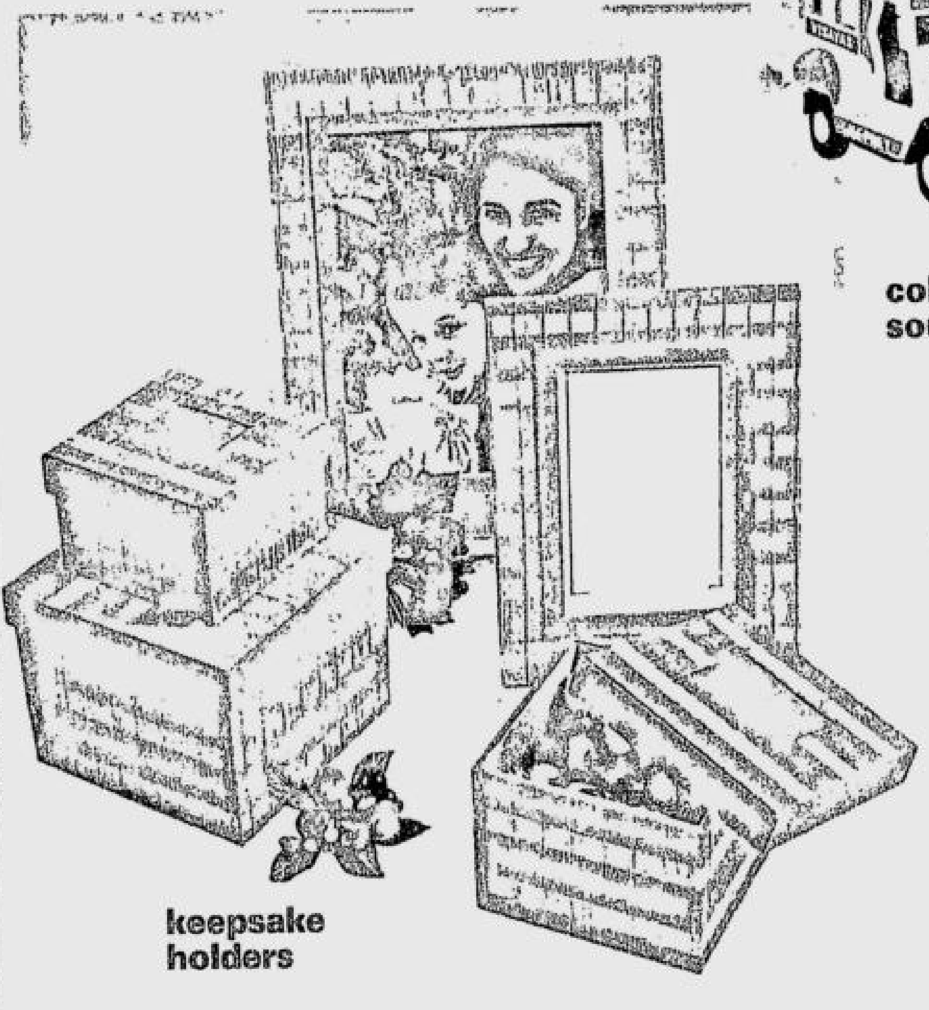
This Christmas, bring smiles to loved ones with great gifts from Philippine Crafts and HomeWorld.



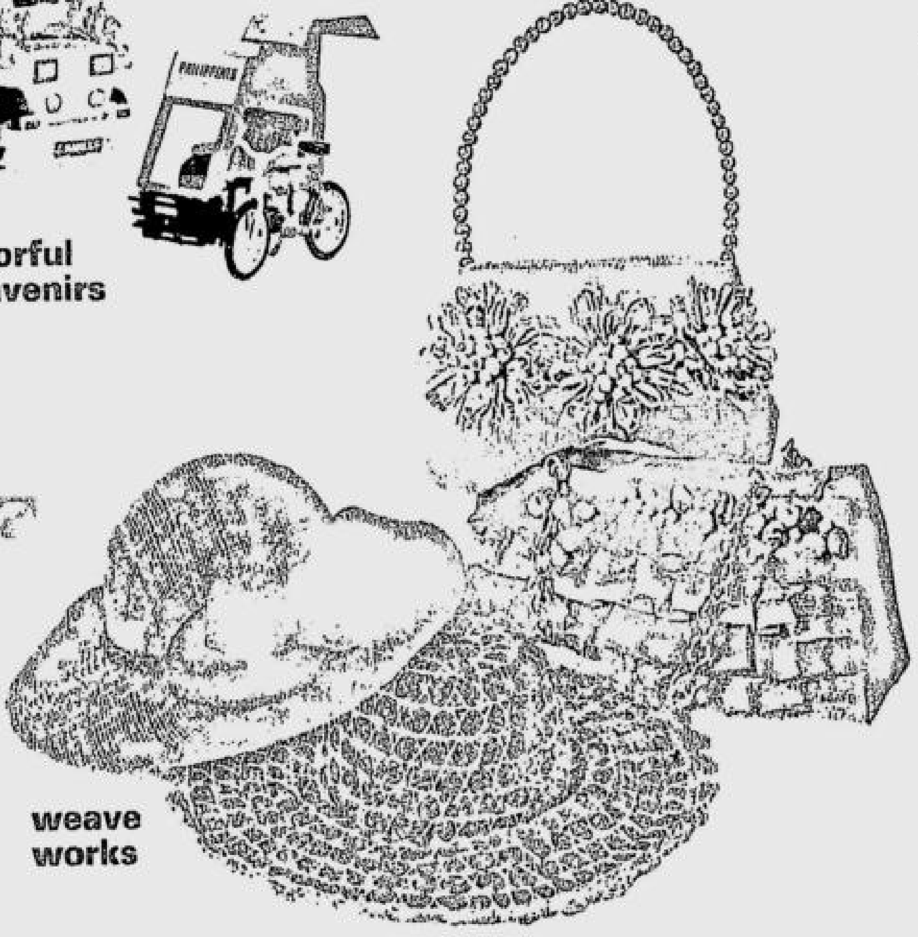
handpainted tops

aficionado's choice

colorful souvenirs



keepsake holders



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'Caroling' all the way

By Marlet D. Salazar

PEOPLE FROM ALL AGES, FROM ALL walks of life, and with varied reasons, go from house to house to serenade you with Christmas songs. Kids with their improvised musical instruments like bottle cap, spoon and fork, milk cans, or grown-ups with their mobile karaokes or bands are familiar sights during these chilly December nights.

Dating back to the 13th century, carols are originally meant to be sung by a group of people. Thus, traditional carols consist of a verse or chorus for group singing during harvest season. Although carols are supposed to have religious meaning, all songs pertaining to Christmas are now referred to as Christmas carols.

The tradition of caroling is known to begin in England. The carolers often receive money, food, or drink in exchange for a song. The cash is meant to go to charity.

In the Philippines, caroling thrived through the years. Christmas carols are heard everywhere, from the streets to auditorium.

The Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong (PCCM) includes in its repertoire for the whole year Christmas songs that will be sung during the yuletide season.

"PCCM chooses the song according to the level of comprehension of the children on the subjects that are presented in the songs," said Sebastian Geraldo L. Trinidad, founding conductor and artistic director. "It will be really hard to present songs to the children especially those that relate about love lost."

The choir, as much as possible, tries to veer away from those Christmas songs. "If it can't be avoided, we used metaphors like a love for a parent or even for a favorite cartoon character, something that they can process."

According to the Wikipedia website, the known oldest musical compositions which date back in the Middle Ages are "Personent hodie" and "Angels from the Realms of Glory." Early Christmas songs that veered away from the traditional religious theme include "White Christmas" and "Blue Christmas." These have become popular in every caroling repertoire.

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Relive the night of Jesus' birth

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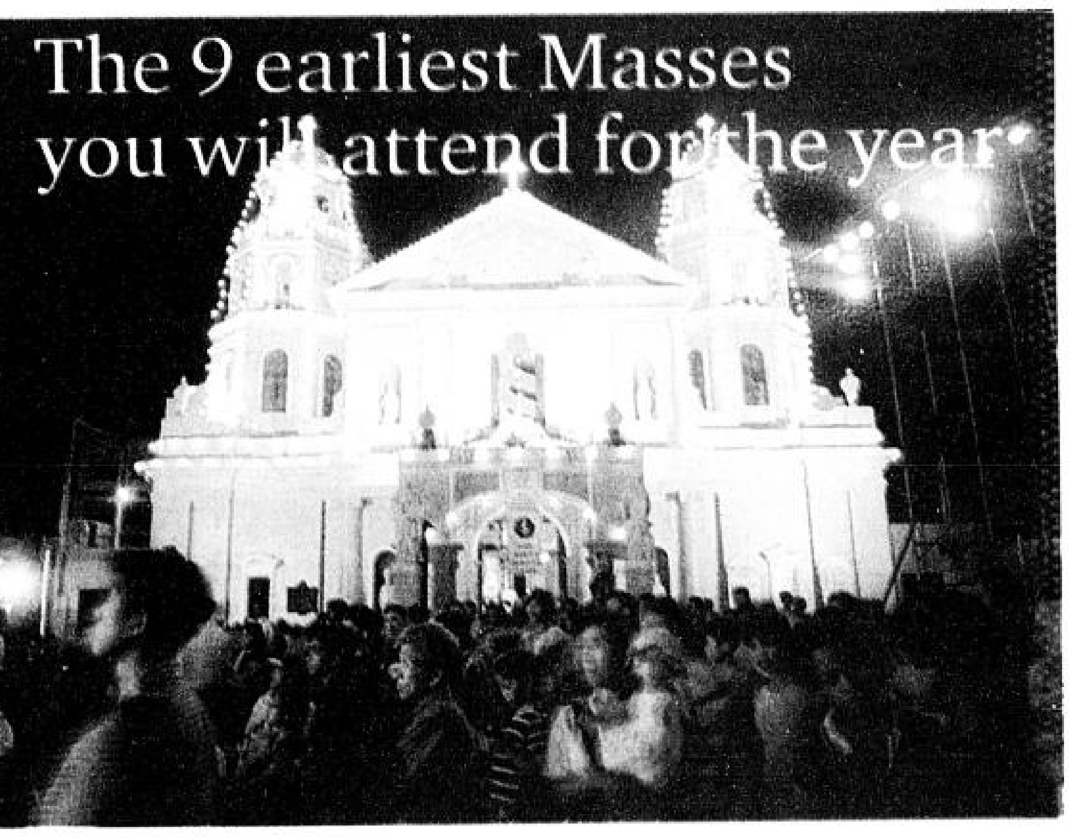
In Liliw, Laguna, Panunuluyan is recently revived with the youth actors playing Mary and Joseph. After dark on Christmas Eve, just before the Midnight Mass, "Mary" and "Joseph" will tread the streets and go from house to house trying to find a place to stay for the night. Houses to go to are chosen prior to the day of the reenactment. Singing a traditional song is the method used to wake up the owner of the house. In turn, the owner would turn them away also by way of a song.

The Liliw residents chose choir members to perform Panunuluyan. They began the tradition in the early 1980s. For a while it was stopped and was revived in the late 1990s.

The Nativity scene would then occur at the St. John the Baptist Parish. There, a replica of Jesus' manger is already prepared. By midnight, the Holy Family should've reached the parish signaling the birth of Jesus Christ. Bells ringing, choir singing, and the happy welcome cap the event of Panunuluyan.

Only in select provinces is this tradition still practiced. Very few find its significance during the Christmas season. Scarce also are details about this fading but wonderful tradition during the yuletide season.

The 9 earliest Masses you will attend for the year



EARNING THE DISTINCTION OF having the longest Christmas celebration in the world, the Philippines' observance of the Christmas season is usually ushered in by the Simbang Gabi.

A tradition unique to the Philippines, the 9-day dawn Masses which start on Dec. 16 are said to have been influenced by the Filipinos' love of the liturgy and our country's agricultural roots during the Spanish times. The Masses are also considered as a novena of the Catholic faithful. This refers to the Roman Catholic practice of performing 9 days of private or public devotion to obtain special graces.

The Spanish friars' desire to teach the Gospel has also helped create the tradition. Noting the Filipinos' love of the liturgy and extended rituals like novenas, they promoted the Christmas Masses but in order to suit the lifestyle of the ordinary folk, they held the Masses at dawn in order to fit into the agricultural rhythm of the farmers, who usually woke up early to work the fields. That's why the Masses also became known as the Misa de Gallo or Mass of the Rooster.

So before the farmers tilled the fields, they attended the dawn Masses first to pray for the birth of Christ and for a generous yield as well. Thus, the birth of Christ and the bounty of the land complemented one another.

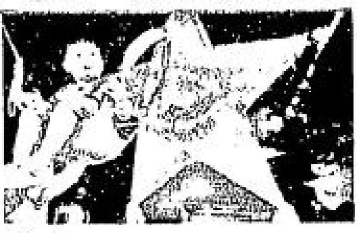
Simbang Gabi used to begin as early as four in the morning. After hearing Mass, Filipino families usually partake of traditional Christmas delicacies, either during breakfast at home or just outside the Church. Vendors offer a wealth of native delicacies, including *bibingka* (rice cake), *puto bumbong* (a purple sticky rice delicacy which is steamed in wooden tubes), *salabat* (ginger tea) and thick cocoa.

The pre-dawn Masses' early roots can be traced in Mexico in 1587 when the prior of the convent of San Agustin Acolman, Fray Diego de Soria, petitioned the Pope for permission to hold Christmas Masses outdoors because the Church could not accommodate the multitude that attended the dawn Masses. The request was eventually granted and became known as *Misa de Aguinaldo*.

In the Philippines, Pope Sixtus V decreed in the 16th century that pre-dawn Masses also be held in the Philippines. The decree was in keeping with the 9-day traditional festivals of Filipinos in celebrating auspicious occasions like harvest time. The Masses also gave the farmers a chance to hear Mass before setting out for their farms. Rural Filipinos were used to starting the day two hours before sunrise. When the harvest proves plentiful, the Masses became an annual tradition.

The Simbang Gabi is capped by the Midnight Mass held on Christmas Eve. Joel V. Nigos (Sources: Inquirer archives and http://en.wikipedia.org)

Pinoy's parol craze



THE FILIPINOS' INGENUITY OF making a foreign tradition into his very own trademark is much reflected in the *parol*, the traditional star-shaped Christmas lantern made of bamboo and paper.

Hanging of *parol* and making *parol* is a very common activity this Christmas season. Children make *parol* for their school project. Hobbyists, or those who are into arts and crafts, make *parol* at home. As pretty symbols of Christmas, *parols* of every make and color decorate churches, houses, and streets. The *parol*, which was introduced by the Spaniards, is very much Pinoy as other respected Filipino traditions and practices.

The making of a *parol*, decorating or lighting one has become an expression of shared faith and hope among Filipinos. To Filipinos, who are mostly Catholics, the *parol* unmistakably represents the star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men to baby Jesus Christ.

The earliest *parols* were traditionally made from simple materials like bamboo sticks, Japanese rice paper, crepe paper, and a candle or coconut oil-lamp for illumination. Present day *parol*, however, can take many different shapes and forms.

Origin of the *parol*

Parols made out of Capiz shells or plastic illuminate the streets of Manila City. One of the most spectacular innovations in *parol* making can be found in the San Fernando City in Pampanga where 20-foot *parols* with kaleidoscopic blinking lights are paraded through the streets.

The term *parol* comes from the Spanish word *farol* which means lantern. The roots of the *parol* can be found in the Mexican *piñata*, a gaily decorated crock or papier-mâché figure filled with toys and candy. The *piñata* came to Spain from Italy in the 1300s, spread to Mexico and finally came to the Philippines when the Spaniards brought Christianity to the islands.

The book "A Child's Pasko: Christmas in the Philippines" explains that the *parol* was originally used to light the way to church of people who attend the daily *Misas de Aguinaldo*, dawn Masses, which began on the 16th of December and ends with the *Misa de Gallo*, or "Mass of the Rooster" at midnight of Christmas Eve.

Misa de Aguinaldo marks the official start of Christmas in the Philippines.

After coming home from church, instead of stowing the lantern elsewhere in the house, churchgoers would proudly hang the *parol* outside the window.

At night, they would illuminate their *parols* with candles or coconut-oil lamps to display their art. The villagers would walk around to appreciate the work of others and see who had the nicest design.

When new stylistic variations appeared, such as different kinds of tassels, streamers, or crowns around it, others would innovate their own creation, and make plans to display his "better" *parol* the following year.

This friendly competition was encouraged by the church. Spanish priests offered incentives for the people to invest time and money to make their *parol* "the best" devotional offering to Jesus.

Parol art or *parol* making in the Philippines has evolved with technological progress, as now manifested by the well-lit and blinking *parols* of Pampanga. Each *parol* has the power to cast a Christmas spell on everyone who appreciates the beauty of this Pinoy Christmas symbol. (Raquel P. Gomez, source MyParol.com)

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CHRISTMAS DAY IS ONE OF THE most awaited events in the family. Growing up in the province with a big family (seven brothers and me) makes it even more special.

When we were kids, we received gifts from "Santa Claus". We also hung our stockings on the Christmas tree. I remember being woken up by my brothers on Christmas Day to see what Santa brought me, whether it's a big or small package, the contents were adorable in my little eyes. After the Mass, my siblings and I would go to our *ninongs*, *ninangs* and relatives to get our *pamasko*.

Years past and one *kuya* after another started staying in Manila to study or to work. But every time Christmas drew near, mom's incessant query of "*Kailan kayo uuwi,*" always summed up her every long distance telephone call before the holidays. We, who were left behind in the province, would wait with excitement what our *kuyas*' replies would be.

Noche Buena is also a family tradition. The partaking of the feast preceded the much anticipated moment of our every Christmas Eve—the opening of the Christmas gifts. Being the youngest and the on-

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A field of red poinsettias

From page 11

treat fever. The plant was first associated with Christmas in the 17th century, when Franciscan priests working in the Taxco area included poinsettias in their Nativity processions because they were so brightly colored at this time of year.

Poinsettias bloom in winter and can grow up to 3 meters or more in their natural habitat.

The brightly colored parts of a poinsettia are not the plant's flowers. They are actually "bracts," or modified leaves surrounding the real flowers, which are tiny, yellow and not very showy.

Poinsettias with red bracts have traditionally dominated the market, but today many different cultivars are available, offering consumers a wide range of colors and shapes, with pink, creamy white, yellow, burgundy, marbled, mottled or even wavy bracts.

Poinsettia's true flowers are the tiny (4-5 mm) greenish-yellow buds in the center of a bunch of 10 to 20 bracts.

While the real flowers fade after fertilization, the leaves may remain colorful for months.

Early days in horticulture

Poinsettias owe their common name to Joel R. Poinsett, who introduced them to the United States when he was the first American ambassador to Mexico in 1825.

A scientist and botanist, Poinsett noticed euphorbias with red bracts growing wild in the hills around Taxco. He sent a few of these plants home to South Carolina for his personal collection. He began propagating them in his greenhouses and giving them to friends and botanical gardens.

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- PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER -

'Caroling' all the way

By Marlet D. Salazar

PEOPLE FROM ALL AGES, FROM ALL walks of life, and with varied reasons, go from house to house to serenade you with Christmas songs. Kids with their improvised musical instruments like bottle cap, spoon and fork, milk cans, or grown-ups with their mobile karaokes or bands are familiar sights during these chilly December nights.

Dating back to the 13th century, carols are originally meant to be sung by a group of people. Thus, traditional carols consist of a verse or chorus for group singing during harvest season. Although carols are supposed to have religious meaning, all songs pertaining to Christmas are now referred to as Christmas carols.

The tradition of caroling is known to begin in England. The carolers often receive money, food, or drink in exchange for a song. The cash is meant to go to charity.

In the Philippines, caroling thrived through the years. Christmas carols are heard everywhere, from the streets to auditorium.

The Philippine Children's Choir from Mandaluyong (PCCM) includes in its repertoire for the whole year Christmas songs that will be sung during the yuletide season.

"PCCM chooses the song according to the level of comprehension of the children on the subjects that are presented in the songs," said Sebastian Geraldo L. Trinidad, founding conductor and artistic director. "It will be really hard to present songs to the children especially those that relate about love lost."

The choir, as much as possible, tries to veer away from those Christmas songs. "If it can't be avoided, we used metaphors like a love for a parent or even for a favorite cartoon character, something that they can process."

According to the Wikipedia website, the known oldest musical compositions which date back in the Middle Ages are "Personent hodie" and "Angels from the Realms of Glory." Early Christmas songs that veered away from the traditional religious theme include "White Christmas" and "Blue Christmas." These have become popular in every caroling repertoire.

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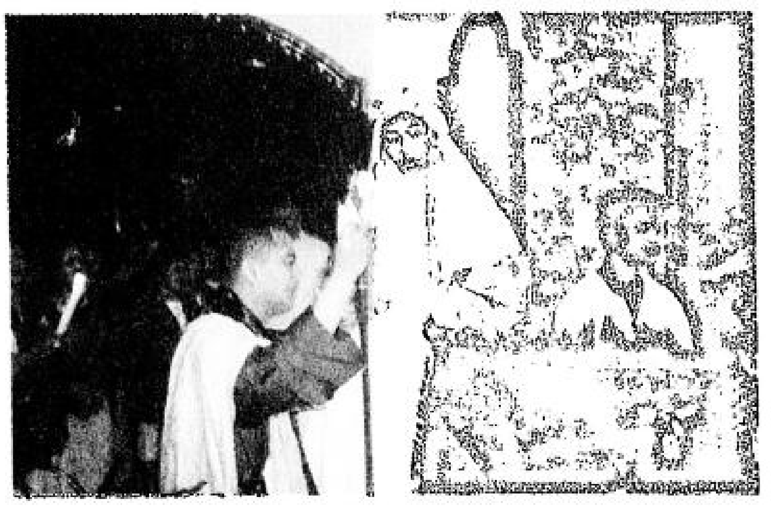

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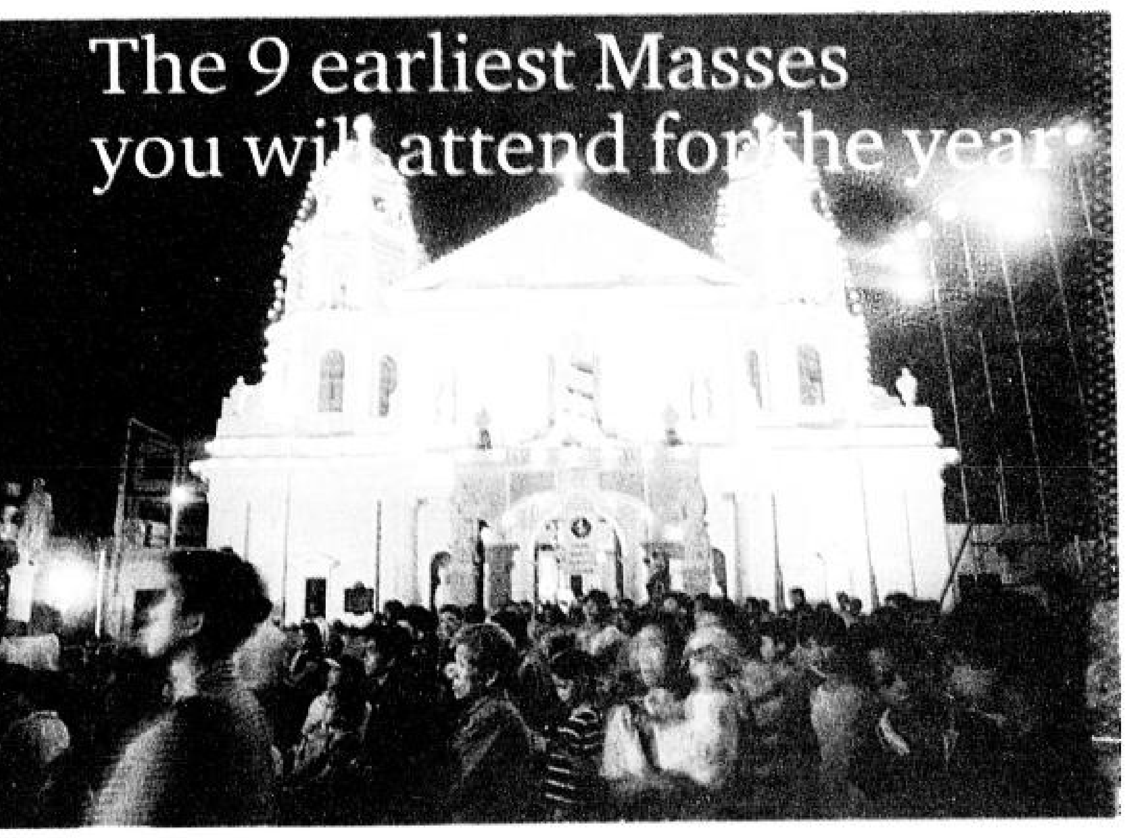

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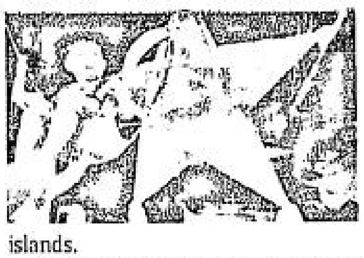
Pinoy's parol craze



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ONE/

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The sounds of the season, enhanced by Bose

IF YOUR DAD FEELS THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT more in his ears, then let his spirits soar with the innovative combination of noise reduction technology and headphone audio performance with the QuietComfort 2 Acoustic Noise Cancelling headphones from Bose. These premium headphones dramatically reduce unwanted noise. Advances in Bose technology make what you want to hear sound even better.

Slip on a pair of QuietComfort 2 headphones and hear the music of the season come alive. Decades of Bose research combined with the Acoustic Noise Cancelling headphone technology deliver the ultimate in audio performance.

Originally designed for air travel, QuietComfort headphones is an effective gadget whenever noise is a problem: on buses or trains, in the office, even at home. Bose engineers enhanced the convenience and portability features of the QuietComfort 2 headphones to make them even easier to enjoy in a variety of environments.

Whether you take them on a trip or to the office, the QuietComfort 2 headphones will fold flat to store easily in a bag or briefcase. A single detachable audio cable gives you easy access to portable players, home stereos and in-flight entertainment systems, all with less tangling than two-cable designs. That same cable can be removed so your headphones can go "cordless" when you simply want the benefits of noise reduction.

Digital music system

Apple's iPod portable music player has changed the way people listen to music. Millions of iPod owners worldwide use their players to take music collections wherever they go, and industry observers expect over a million more consumers to buy iPods during the Holiday season. But the iPod experience is usually a private one, confining music to headphones and computers. The rapid growth of the iPod creates a new opportunity for Bose to meet the needs of iPod owners with the new SoundDock digital music system.

The SoundDock digital music system is a powered acoustic package with a remote control and an iPod docking cradle. Simply insert the iPod into the cradle and experience a new level in digital of music. The SoundDock system's sleek appearance blends with the iPod and almost any décor. Its slim profile and small footprint allow placement in kitchens, bedrooms, offices and dorm rooms.

The SoundDock system's appearance complements its ease of use. An infrared remote control enables the user to control the system and the iPod from almost anywhere in the room. With the docking cradle, there's no need for special adapters or stereo cables and it also acts as a charger for your iPod. "The SoundDock system enhances the performance of the iPod. Music lovers will surely be impressed by the quality of sound provided by such a small package," states Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp, exclusive distributors of Bose entertainment systems.

For inquiries on how to experience a new level of sound with Bose, call 724-9566/898-2048 or log on to www.eleksis.com, or visit Bose showrooms at the SM Megamall, PowerPlant Mall in Rockwell Center, SM Robinsons, Ermita, 3rd floor of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati and at the Alabang Town Center.

Suddenly, that dream kitchen appliance is within reach

GE APPLIANCES, ARISTON HOLD the much-awaited Annual Warehouse Sale, where you can find the perfect gift for your loved ones this Christmas season.

America's most preferred appliance brand, GE Appliances, holds its much awaited Display Sale at its main plant in Pasig starting today, Dec. 16 up to the end of the month only. The sale offers as much as 30 percent discount on 'class b' items - these are first-hand, never-been-used products that had mostly been used as display items at retailing outlets.

Get as much as P12,000 discount on US-made top-mount refrigerators or catch a 25cuft. side-by-side refrigerator for only P52,500. Other GE Appliances items like Asian style no-frost refs, microwave ovens, air-conditioners, water dispensers are likewise on sale.

Also available are great offers from the #1 Italian brand Ariston which includes stainless freestanding cookers, built-in cooktops, cooker hoods, as well as washing machines. Just imagine - a 100 percent Italian made freestanding cooker with a combination of 3 gas burners and 1 electric plate at P4,000 off.

Hurry, now's the time you've been waiting for. Visit GE and Ariston Display Sale at its main plant at #103 Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City and grab the limited offer.

You may also take a peek at the Display Sale items at the GE showroom in the Home Buddies Section of Glorietta 4 (4th Level near the Cinemas). For more details on the location, call 887-0075 or 815-8429.

One family…

From page 16

ly girl, I remember receiving more gifts. I so loved opening gifts that I would volunteer to open even the gifts for my parents.

Now that I've grown and already working, I'm the one giving gifts to every member of my family. Being the ever-doting *Tita/Ninang Ineng* (my *pamangkins* fondly call me this), I tend to pamper the little ones with lots of gifts.

Even as a kid, the presence of the Christmas tree marks the "start" of Christmas in our home. Up to this day, the task of setting up and decorating the tree has been "assigned" to me. I don't know why, but I love the task tremendously.

Maybe it all started when, as a toddler, one of my *kuyas* brought home a 3-ft Christmas tree. I was already asleep when he came and so they put up the tree themselves to my dismay. In the morning they had to remove everything so I could put up the tree myself.

The Christmas tree has been so much a part of our family Christmas celebration. I remember to have a tree made of *palara* before we had the traditional plastic pine tree that *kuya* bought. As the family grew bigger, so did our Christmas tree. (It's now seven feet tall!). My *pamangkins'* eyes glow every time it is put up each year.

When my brothers got married one by one, our Christmas Eve gathering changed because they had to consider whether they would spend Christmas or New Year with us or with their in-laws. But more often than not, they'd choose to spend Christmas at our house. I surmise it's because my *kuyas* have adopted the tradition we all grew up with and want their own children to experience the same.

From the original eight siblings and our parents, our family now includes seven sisters-in-law and 13 nephews and nieces! Our Christmas Eve has never been more fun and exciting.

To while away time before we had our *Noche Buena*, we would sing carols with *kuya* on the piano or have some carols play in our stereo.

The opening of the gifts tops the list of the "Most Awaited Family Christmas Moment." With more kids now, the excitement doubled. I can't forget how we love to tease—if not reprimand—our *pamangkins* that they might be asleep when the gifts were opened because they didn't take the "required" afternoon nap to prepare them for the late night revelry. And how funny it is to see most of them putting a brave front of trying their very best to keep their droopy eyes wide open. I guess the thought of the gifts lying underneath the Christmas tree has kept them awake.

When its time to open the gifts, everyone is in attention. I always stand as the "master of ceremony" and as I call each name and hand in their gifts, everybody urges the recipient to open it at once. A resounding "Woooow!" echoes in our *sala* as each gift is revealed. After then we would all gather to have our pictures taken with our gifts in tow.

On Christmas Day, we would all go to Mass and then, again, the never-ending family picture-taking (with the kids displaying their new clothes and shoes, of course) follows. Then off the little ones go to their godparents for the *pamamasko*.

Our Christmas turned a little bleak when *kuya* Eric died three months shy from Christmas in 2003. His death was a big blow to our family. Suddenly we were no longer complete.

That episode prompted me to write a note to my *kuyas* and their families on Christmas, to remind all of them that life is short and we should not take anything for granted. I didn't know how that letter made them feel but on my part, I felt at peace writing to them. Despite our loss, we still celebrated Christmas in a pretty much the same way as the following years. The ties that bind us as one family has given us the strength to ease the pain.

In February this year, our eldest, *kuya* Glenn, passed away. His untimely demise gave us a jolt and put to test the bond that united us.

I'm sure this year's Christmas would again be a mix of sadness and joy, especially since kuya Glenn was the funnyman in our brood and he never failed to amuse us with his hilarious jokes and anecdotes.

Despite all these, nothing could dampen our family's Christmas spirit. Not because our departed loved ones do not matter at all or because we don't miss them. God knows, how much we do. We know in our hearts that even if they're gone, they will always be a part of our family.

My two *kuyas'* passing away taught me one lesson: that in life somebody dear to us will leave, but in God's mysterious and timely ways, somebody (in our case, another baby and a sister-in-law) will also come. It also made me all the more convinced to make this Christmas as meaningful as we can because it could be anyone's last. It's just emotional when family pictures are taken and you realize somebody is missing and will never be around… forever.

Our family is not perfect, even far from being "ideal," but we have family moments that are simply irreplaceable and unforgettable and I will treasure them as long as I live. And we have our Christmas traditions that we hope we could pass on to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Christmas is really the right time to be with family and loved ones, just like Jesus came to this world to be with his family (Joseph and Mary), and to live in the hearts of each one of us.

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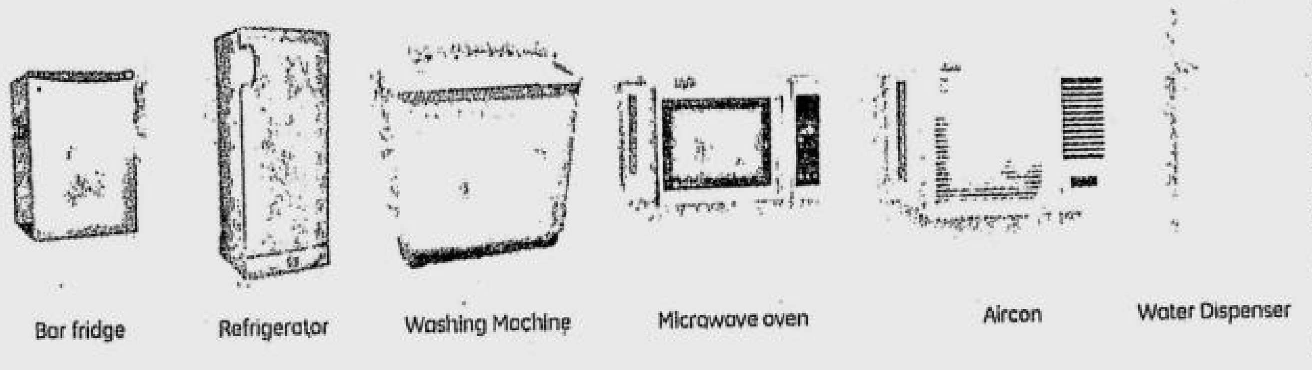

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*Source: Harris Poll, 2003

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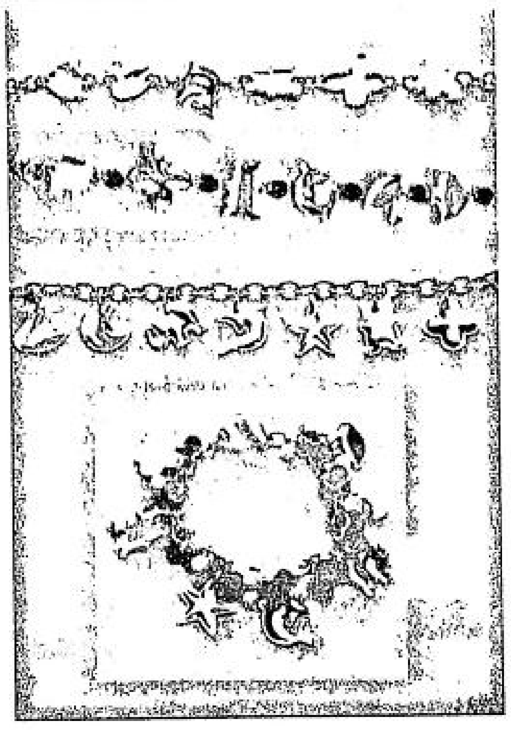
All that glitters

DURING THE FRENETIC PACE OF CHRISTmas shopping, take time for a peek at what Michelis has in store; pretty bracelets, delicate necklaces and eye-catching rings in sterling silver set with precious gems. These irresistible pieces are interpreted in a classic but contemporary style, fitting for every woman of the new millennium. These charming but modern day arm candies make the perfect gift for yourself or for the "special someone" in your list.

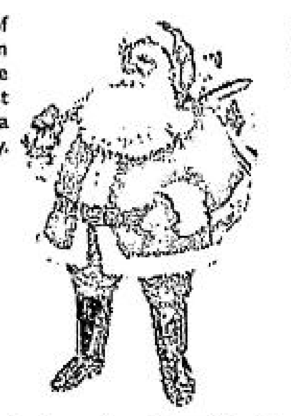
Jewels speak a language that everyone understands. Yes, even men. The unique collection is sure to bring out the personal radiance of oneself and cherished loved ones as well. Why not make hopes and dreams last beyond the Christmas season? Nothing spells permanence, longevity and security more than the beauty and value of jewels.

Expressing love during the Christmas season is the perfect way to celebrate it. Take the chance, make your heart decide and give the perfect gift for your loved ones. Pick from precious trinkets that take the modern woman from day to night, classic and timeless pieces to showcase the elegant curve of your woman's neck and wrist and even whimsical pieces that simply express the endless joy in life.

These are the stuff that dreams are made of. Make a wish on a jeweled star. Miracles are guaranteed this season.



Different faces of Santa



THIS familiar image of Santa Claus is an American invention of the 19th century with an artist working for the Coca Cola Company.

KNOWN AS THE LEGENDARY bringer of gifts at Christmas, Santa Claus is generally portrayed as a fat, jolly man with a white beard, dressed in a red suit pruned with white, and driving a sleigh full of toys drawn through the air by eight reindeers. Santa, also called Saint Nicholas and Saint Nick, is said to visit on Christmas Eve, entering houses through the chimney to leave presents under the Christmas tree and in the stockings of all good children.

This familiar image of Santa Claus though is an American invention of the 19th century and an artist working for a popular soda has sealed that Santa Claus figure as we know today.

Washington Irving first described Santa's sleigh flying. The sleigh was said to be pulled by reindeers - giving St. Nick an exotic link with the far north - a land of cold and snow where few, if any, people traveled and was hence mysterious and remote.

Clement Moore's "The Night Before Christmas" published on Dec. 23, 1823 told of a "jolly old elf" and of eight reindeers and gave their names. Bavarian-born Thomas Nast, meanwhile, is considered as the primary source for the way we picture Santa Claus because of a series of drawings he did for Harper's Weekly between 1863 and 1886. Nast drew Santa as the winter holiday figure he remembered from the mountain villages in his Bavarian Alps but a rather scary, less-than friendly gnome.

In 1931, an artist for the Coca-Cola Company, Haddon Sundblom, was assigned to come up with a new, more commercial Santa so instead of Moore's elf or Nast's grumpy gnome, Sundblom came up with a large, jolly fellow in the well-known, bright red suit with white fur trim (the Coca-Cola colors).

Together, Irving, Moore, Nast and Sundblom are largely responsible for the American version of Santa Claus which has been adopted in so many countries including the Philippines.

Santa's European roots tell of a bishop named Nicholas in a land now called Turkey who lived in the fourth century. He was very wealthy and generous, and he loved to make children happy. Often, he would give gifts to very poor children, sometimes by throwing them into their windows.

As the story goes, Saint Nicholas once helped a man's daughter with her dowry by anonymously dropping a bag of gold down the chimney. After helping the man's second and third daughters in similar manner, he was caught in the act. In recognition of his generosity, the practice of dropping gifts down the chimney was established.

After Nicholas died, he was canonized as a saint. His feast day is Dec. 6--a holiday in many countries. He is the patron saint of children and seafarers. In the Netherlands, the saint's name, Sinter Nikolass, became shortened to Sinter Klaas. And as Dutch people immigrated to the United States, the name evolved into what it is today--Santa Claus!

Santa Claus has been called by several different names throughout the years. In France, he is called Peré Noel, Christkindl in Germany, and Father Christmas in England, the originator of the American version. The jolly fellow is also known as Basbouschka in Russia, Mikulas in Hungary, Diado Coleda in Bulgaria, Deda Mraz in Yugoslavia, Bozicek in Slovenia, Babbo Natale or Befana in Italy, Gwiazdor in Poland, Santa Kurohsu, and Shengdan Laoren in China. Joel V. Nigos (Sources: www.123christians.com and www.kriss-kringle.com.)

0% Installment Plan for Amex cardholders at Avant Abenson

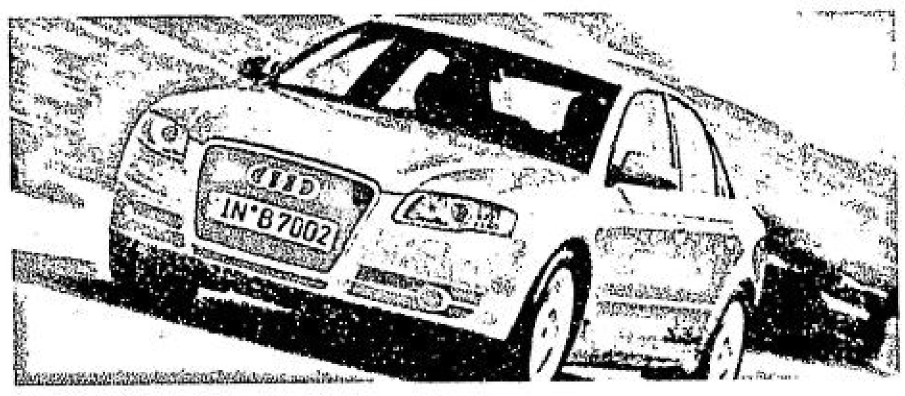
ABENSON AVANT RECENTLY LAUNCHED the 0% Installment Payment Plan exclusively for American Express (Amex) Peso Platinum Credit Cardholders.

Amex cardmembers enjoy 0-percent interest on 12 monthly installments on all big screen TV purchases from now until Dec. 31 when they shop at Avant. They can also enjoy 3, 6 and 12 months 0-percent installment payment plan at Abenson, Electroworld and Abea.

The partnership brings together for the first time two of the country's leaders in the fields of banking and retail, American Express and Abenson Avant. American Express Company is a diversified worldwide travel, financial services, and network services company. Avant Abenson, on the other hand, is the latest innovation of the Abenson Group that showcases state-of-the-art electronics, entertainment, and home appliances in an interactive environment.

Avant Abenson is located at the 2nd and 3rd Level of Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati, with telephone numbers 758-2315 to 20. American Express Peso Platinum Cardmembers may call the 24-hour customer service hotline at 814-4777, or log on to the American Express Bank website www.americanexpressbank.com.ph for more details.

Manila's fashionable mall 'surprizes' you



POWER PLANT MALL, IN PARTNERSHIP with PGA Cars, will be awarding to one of its fashionable shoppers a brand new Audi A4 worth P2.6 million.

This sparkling jewel of German luxury cars is up for grabs in Power Plant Mall's Christmas Raffle Promo ongoing until Jan. 15.

A minimum single purchase of P2,000 at any Power Plant Mall establishment entitles a shopper to one raffle stub. However, for Power Plant Mall Rustan's Supermarket, the minimum single purchase should be P3,000 to entitle a shopper to one raffle stub.

Shoppers can exchange their receipt for raffle stubs and drop them at the Power Plant Mall's Independent Lifestyles Wing, R2 level.

The awarding will be on Jan. 15, so visit and shop at the Power Plant Mall and grab the chance to be the proud owner of a magnificent Audi A4.

Truly, Power Plant Mall elevates your shopping experience as it gives you this chance of a lifetime.

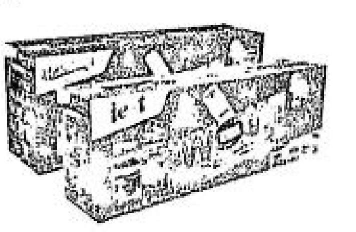
2006 Edition for 2005 Christmas

WHAT IS THE "PERFECT" GIFT? It is something that brings joy to the recipient, that twinkle in their eye , a smile that tells you made the right decision and it was all worth it. So, if you are still making your Christmas list for the special people in your life, then you might want to consider adding a videoke microphone to your list.

Giving the 2006 Edition of WOW Magic Sing this Christmas is one decision that is truly worth it. With its advanced features and 2,064 songs to choose from, you just can't go wrong.

With a Wow Magic Sing at hand this Christmas, it won't be a "Silent Night" but "jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle rock, jingle bell swing, jingle bell ring". What a great time to sing the night away!

Add WOW to the Christmas Spirit by sharing the Magic of music, and Sing to your hearts' content-with the videoke microphone that started it all. Wow Magic Sing is available at all branches of Abenson, Odyssey, Astro Vision, and Automatic Center.



The 12 Dupés of Christmas

THE GOOD NEWS IS THIS CHRISTMAS, YOU can spare yourself from the hassle of completing your Yuletide gift list for your relatives and friends. Dupé, Brazil's favorite brand of micropore rubber sandals, definitely has a pair for just about everyone, at a price that's definitely easy on your pocket. From your sweet little nephew to your fashionista best friend, Dupé has the right style for every type of personality!

BRASIL NEW. Your special guy can wear these when he hits the waves or when he takes you to see that girl flick you've been begging him to watch with you. Either way, he'll look super cool wearing this Dupé style, which will certainly make him exclaim "Sweet!" when he unwraps your present.

MICANGA BRASIL. Unique and perfect for your Bohemian free spirited girl friend. Intricate beadwork on the straps gives it that hippy look that goes great with jeans or a long billowy skirt.

REVOLUTION. For your friend who has an extensive wardrobe. Dupé Revolution comes in a variety of vivid and bright colors that are not only comfortable but trendy as well. Give her a pair to match each of her outfits!

TRIBAL. This is what you get your Bohemian free spirited friend's boyfriend, and maybe yours too, if you're feeling ultra generous.

MOCINHA. Part of the Dupezinho line, Dupé's line of sandals for youngsters, Mocinha is for your little sister or niece. With a cute colorful style, these sandals have cheery character accents on the straps which will surely keep a little girl fascinated.

GARDEN. Get a pair for mom. No matter how old (or young she is) she'll look ultra cool when she's out in the garden tending to her precious orchids or shopping with you in the mall. The perfect Dupé style for the number one woman in your life.

PRAIA. Talk about walking on clouds! Give this to a friend who is forever longing to hit the beach, or if you want to be a bit literary, to someone known for his high hopes or big dreams. This gift is one way of reminding him to keep his feet on the ground once he reaches the top.

SQUARE. Huey Lewis is not alone when he said, "It's hip to be square!". An interesting shape for a pair of sandals, give this to your fashion-conscious nephew who wants to stand out in the crowd.

FRUIT. As the name suggests, this is perfect for the little gal who bright, sweet and refreshing to look at, just like the fruit she's wearing underneath her feet. Watermelon, strawberry, orange or grape, get her one to match her mood for the day!

MONOCOLOR. Basic one-colored sandals for everyone and anyone you'd like to give a special gift to this Christmas. Assign a different color to each person on your list, male or female, young or old, Dupé Monocolor is for everyone!

ZODIACO. If a lot of these Dupés are for your li'l gal pals, then this is one for the little brother, cousin or nephew. Zodiacos come in air (light blue with clouds) and fire (orange) and give him a "child of the earth" look that is irresistible to any little girl. Who says he's too young to be fashionable?

FLORZINHA. The best gift for a dainty young lady who loves the outdoors. With cute little butterfly buttons on the strap, these will make any little girl feel like a garden fairy or any of her other favorite magical characters.

One last thing before you start shopping for those pairs of Dupé, make sure you know the foot sizes of the recipients. Dupé, known for its ultra comfortable feel and superior craftsmanship, is available at Sari Sari Store, Celio, Shoe Salon, The Landmark Department Store, Big & Small, Spin, Kidztation, Infanticipation, Little One's, Meet My Feet, and sport houses Toby's, Olympic Village, and Planetsports.

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